2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2027 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2024 and 2025; the Working Families Tax Cuts Act of 2025; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026; and the President's Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the Working Families Tax Cuts Act (WFTC) is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of small non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1). Due to rounding, some tables may not sum exactly.

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on April 2, 1972, under the authority of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 and other authorities. The mission of the Agency is to safeguard the health, welfare, and value of American agriculture and natural resources.

APHIS, together with its stakeholders, protects the health of animal and plant resources to ensure abundant agricultural products and services for U.S. customers, and to facilitate their movement in the global marketplace to benefit rural communities and all Americans. As part of this mission, APHIS ensures that biotechnology-derived agricultural products do not inadvertently introduce plant pests or diseases and are available to American farmers to enhance production of food and fiber for the world. APHIS guards against the introduction or re-emergence of animal and plant pests and diseases that could limit agricultural production and damage export markets. At the same time, APHIS monitors and responds to potential acts of agricultural bioterrorism, invasive species, diseases of wildlife and livestock, and conflicts between humans and wildlife. The Agency helps to resolve sanitary (animal) and phytosanitary (plant) trade barriers, as well as enforces Federal laws pertaining to the humane treatment of certain animals. Finally, APHIS plays a significant role in helping to detect and prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases that threaten to move from animals to humans.

APHIS' mission is carried out using three major areas of activity, as follows:

Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response

APHIS monitors animal and plant health domestically. APHIS also monitors disease situations throughout the world and uses this information to set effective agricultural import policies to prevent the introduction of foreign animal and plant pests and diseases. APHIS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security cooperate to ensure that these policies are enforced at U.S. ports of entry. These policies prevent the entry of many invasive pests and diseases, including those that impact crops, pollinators, woodlands, and livestock. APHIS also develops and conducts pre-clearance programs to ensure that foreign agricultural products destined for the United States do not present a risk to U.S. agriculture. The Agency engages in cooperative programs to control pests of imminent concern to the United States. APHIS certifies animal and animal products, plants and plant products, for export to other countries and regulates imports of designated endangered plant species.

Should a pest or disease enter the United States, APHIS works cooperatively with other Federal, State, and industry partners to conduct animal and plant health monitoring programs to rapidly determine if there is a need to establish new pest or disease management programs. APHIS, in conjunction with States, industry, and other stakeholders, protects American agriculture by eradicating harmful pests and diseases or, where eradication is not feasible, by minimizing their economic impact. The Agency monitors endemic pests and diseases through surveys to detect their location and through inspection to prevent their spread into non-infested parts of the country.

The Agency maintains a cadre of trained professionals prepared to respond immediately to potential animal and plant health emergencies. Program personnel investigate reports of suspected exotic pests and diseases and take emergency action if necessary. To facilitate these efforts, APHIS develops pathway studies and thoroughly investigates outbreaks to determine the origin of animal and plant pests and diseases and the most appropriate response actions to take including the development of tools and technologies to help manage these pests. APHIS also actively engages State, Tribal, and local governments, and industries to advance their emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

APHIS develops methods to control animals and pests that are detrimental to agriculture, wildlife, and public safety through its Wildlife Services program. The Agency's regulatory structure brings the benefits of genetic research to the marketplace; while ensuring they do not pose a plant pest risk. APHIS also conducts diagnostic laboratory activities that support the Agency's veterinary disease prevention, detection, control, eradication, and response programs.

Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance

Sanitary (animal) and phytosanitary (plant) (SPS) measures implemented by U.S. trading partners can have a significant impact on market access for the United States as an exporter of agricultural products. APHIS plays a central role in resolving technical trade issues to ensure the smooth and safe movement of agricultural commodities into and out of the United States. APHIS' role is to negotiate animal and plant health certification requirements, assist U.S. exporters in meeting foreign regulatory requirements, ensure requirements are proportional to risk without being excessively restrictive, and provide any necessary technical information to support the safety of U.S. agricultural products destined for foreign markets.

APHIS helps to protect the United States from emerging animal and plant pests and diseases while meeting obligations under the World Trade Organization's SPS agreement by assisting developing countries in improving their safeguarding systems. APHIS collaborates with other Federal agencies including the Foreign Agricultural Service, the State Department, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to implement technical and regulatory capacity building projects with shared resources. APHIS develops and implements programs designed to identify and reduce agricultural pest and disease threats while still outside of U.S. borders, to enhance safe agricultural trade, and to strengthen emergency response preparedness.

Animal Welfare

The Agency conducts regulatory activities to ensure the humane care and treatment of certain animals and horses as required by the Animal Welfare Act of 1966 as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131-2159), and the Horse Protection Act of 1970 as amended (15 U.S.C. 1821-1831). These activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for research, exhibitions, and sale as pets, and monitoring of certain horse shows.

Statutory Authorities

General:

7 U.S.C. 1633	Talmadge-Aiken Act (cooperation with States)
21 U.S.C. 136-136a	User Fees
31 U.S.C. 9701	User Fees (offsetting collections and miscellaneous receipts)
7 U.S.C. 3291(a)	Authority to provide technical assistance and training
7 U.S.C. 5623	Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (reporting on SPS issues and trade barriers)
7 U.S.C. 5925	Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
7 U.S.C. 2279g	Marketing Services; cooperative agreements
22 U.S.C. 4085	Foreign Service Act

Animal Health:

7 U.S.C. 8301-8322	Animal Health Protection Act
49 U.S.C. 80502	28-Hour Law (feed, water, and rest for animals)
19 U.S.C. 1202	Purebred animal duty-free entry
7 U.S.C. 1622	Section 203 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
7 U.S.C. 1624	Section 205 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
7 U.S.C. 398	Section 101(d) of the Organic Act of l944
7 U.S.C. 3801-3813	Swine Health Protection Act
7 U.S.C. 2274	Firearms (tick inspectors)
7 U.S.C. 1901 note	Transportation of Equines to Slaughter
21 U.S.C. 151-159	Virus-Serum-Toxin Act
21 U.S.C. 113a	Authority to establish research facilities for Foot-and-Mouth and other diseases
21 U.S.C. 618	Section 18 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended, as it pertains to the issuance of certificates of condition of live animals for export
7 U.S.C. 8401 and 8411	Title II, Subtitles B and C of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002
7 U.S.C. 116, 9202	National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Act 2020
7 U.S.C. 430	Purchase and testing of serums or analogous products; dissemination of test results

Plant Health:

7 U.S.C. 7701-7772; and 7781-7786	Plant Protection Act
7 U.S.C. 1551-1610	Title III, Federal Seed Act
7 U.S.C. 2801 note; 2814	Federal Noxious Weed Act
7 U.S.C. 281-286	Honeybee Act
7 U.S.C. 7760	Terminal Inspection Act
7 U.S.C. 2279e and 2279f	Title V of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (penalties for interfering with inspection animals)
16 U.S.C. 1531-1544	Endangered Species Act (plants)
16 U.S.C. 3371-3378	Lacey Act (importation or shipment of injurious mammals, birds, fish)
7 U.S.C. 8401	Title II, Subtitle B of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002
39 U.S.C. 3015	Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1992
Public Law 118-191	Beagle Brigade Act

Wildlife Services:

7 U.S.C. 8351	Control of predatory and other wild animals Act of 1931

7 U.S.C. 8353	Control of nuisance mammals and birds and those constituting reservoirs of zoonotic disease
7 U.S.C. 8501-8507	Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2004

Animal Welfare:

7 U.S.C. 2131-2159	Animal Welfare Act
15 U.S.C. 1821-1831	Horse Protection Act

STAFFING AND OFFICES

There were 5,884 permanent full-time employees as of September 30, 2025. Of the total, 894 full-time employees were located at the Beltsville, Maryland and Washington D.C headquarters. Outside the Maryland and Washington D.C. headquarters, APHIS also has Hubs located in Fort Collins, CO, Minneapolis, MN, and Raleigh, NC. APHIS conducts much of its work in cooperation with State and local agencies, private groups, and foreign governments. APHIS performs work in field offices located in all 50 States, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, Asia, and Africa.

APHIS activities contribute to the success of USDA's overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management. USDA is currently developing the FY 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan. A detailed FY 2027 performance plan, including Key Performance Indicators, can be found at https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table APHIS-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	$2,304,310	5,181	$2,492,080	5,300	$1,157,534	5,016	$1,147,750	5,016
Mandatory Appropriations	610,976	1,405	730,678	1,668	910,000	1,418	892,554	1,418
Buildings and Facilities:								
Discretionary Appropriations	1,000	-	1,000	-	500	-	1,000	-
Trust Funds:								
Mandatory Appropriations	14,407	50	21,555	50	14,500	50	14,500	50
Total Discretionary Appropriations	2,305,310	5,181	2,493,080	5,300	1,158,034	5,016	1,148,750	5,016
Total Mandatory Appropriations	625,384	1,455	752,233	1,718	924,500	1,468	907,054	1,468
Total Adjusted Appropriation	2,930,694	6,636	3,245,313	7,018	2,082,534	6,484	2,055,804	6,484
Balance Available, SOY	1,376,571	1,306	1,633,382	1,287	2,109,299	1,595	761,378	1,535
Rescinded Balances	-5,000	-	-5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	68,463	-	45,512	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	4,370,727	7,942	4,919,207	8,305	4,191,833	8,079	2,817,182	8,019
Lapsing Balances	-1,830	-477	-7,188	-667	-	-111	-	-111
Transferred Balances	-312,076		-199,717		-243,266		-257,833	
Balance Available, EOY	-1,633,382	-1,287	-2,109,299	-1,595	-761,378	-1,535	-737,561	-1,744
Total Obligations	2,423,439	6,178	2,603,003	6,043	3,187,189	6,433	1,821,788	6,164
Other USDA:								
Agricultural Marketing Service	29,788	46	31,230	18	30,000	20	30,000	20
Agricultural Research Service	40,688	60	36,402	92	35,000	50	35,000	50
Departmental Administration	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Production and Conservation Business	53	-		-	-	-	-	-
Food Safety and Inspection Service	21	-	24	-	20	-	20	-
Foreign Agricultural Service	3,734	11	4,400	25	4,000	20	4,000	20
Forest Service	1,597	12	1,483	11	1,000	10	1,000	10
National Appeals Division	6	-	6	-	6	-	6	-
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	213	1	4,144	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Natural Resources Conservation Service	550	5	678	3	500	2	500	2
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	173	1	73	-	100	-	100	-
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	977	1	2,293	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
Office of the Chief Information Officer	609	-	2,422	8	2,500	8	2,500	8
Office of the Secretary	90	-	51	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Development	790	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other USDA	79,289	139	83,245	157	76,626	110	76,626	110
Total, Agriculture Available	4,450,016	8,081	5,002,452	8,462	4,268,459	8,189	2,893,808	8,129

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs
Other Federal Funds:								
DOW, U.S. Air Force	19,170	163	16,455	128	16,000	120	16,000	120
DOW, Air National Guard	6,691	57	6,945	49	7,000	50	7,000	50
DOW, Space Force	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
DOW, U.S. Navy	10,649	91	9,455	64	10,000	60	10,000	60
DOW, U.S. Marine Corps	1,290	11	1,486	13	1,500	13	1,500	13
DOW, U.S. Army	2,571	22	2,492	20	2,500	20	2,500	20
DOW, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	2,240	19	1,588	12	2,000	12	2,000	12
DOW, Defense Threat Reduction Agency	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Energy	447	3	356	-	300	-	300	-
Department of Health and Human Services	536	1	23		-	-	-	-
DHS: for Coast Guard and other services and support	621	3	438	3	500	3	500	3
Federal Emergency Management Agency	50	-	206	-	200	-	200	-
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	521	5	533	4	500	4	500	4
USDOI, Geological Survey, National Park Service, Office of Insular Affairs	2,028	17	1,751	16	1,000	10	1,000	10
USDOI, Bureau of Land Management & Reclamation: for administrative and technical support	1,241	6	862	4	500	3	500	3
USDOI, Fish and Wildlife Services: for natural resources and endangered species	2,767	24	2,287	16	1,500	8	1,500	8
USDOT: Federal Aviation Administration	815	7	1,049	4	500	2	500	2
Department of Veterans Affairs	29	-	34	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental Protection Agency	2,399	20	2,224	19	1,500	15	1,500	15
GSA: for miscellaneous services	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other Federal Funds	248	7	623	2	400	1	400	1
Total, Other Federal	54,350	456	48,810	354	45,900	321	45,900	321
Non-Federal Funds:								
Funds from organizations, states, and local entities for wildlife, plant, and animal services support	80,964	657	86,027	690	85,000	690	85,000	690
Import-Export User Fees	49,766	320	51,541	314	50,000	310	50,000	310
Phytosanitary Certificate User Fees	20,192	140	18,835	130	19,000	130	19,000	130
Reimbursable Overtime	12,636	84	12,982	1	13,000	1	13,000	1
Veterinary Diagnostics User Fees	7,742	49	7,944	56	8,000	55	8,000	55
Other User Fees	4	-	4	-	4	-	4	-
Total, Non-Federal	171,304	1,250	177,333	1,191	175,004	1,186	175,004	1,186
Total Available, APHIS	4,675,671	9,787	5,228,595	10,007	4,489,363	9,696	3,114,712	9,636

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table APHIS-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual			2025 Estimated			2026 Estimated			2027 Estimated		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES	27	11	38	25	10	35	20	8	28	20	8	28
SL	2	4	6	3	3	6	2	2	4	2	2	4
GS-15.....	68	101	169	71	94	165	54	70	124	54	70	124
GS-14.....	219	594	813	257	526	783	198	427	625	198	427	625
GS-13.....	189	804	993	228	763	991	155	629	784	155	629	784
GS-12.....	121	976	1,097	131	1,007	1,138	90	905	995	90	905	995
GS-11.....	84	768	852	74	776	850	55	704	759	55	704	759
GS-10.....	-	16	16	-	15	15	-	13	13	-	13	13
GS-9.....	49	557	606	48	553	601	28	478	506	28	478	506
GS-8.....	5	236	241	9	242	251	6	217	223	6	217	223
GS-7.....	28	627	655	27	593	620	16	463	479	16	463	479
GS-6.....	11	186	197	6	170	176	4	116	120	4	116	120
GS-5.....	6	94	100	2	50	52	-	32	32	-	32	32
GS-4.....	13	41	54	4	12	16	2	9	11	2	9	11
GS-3.....	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	2
GS-2.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Graded.....	10	169	179	9	174	183	9	156	165	9	156	165
Total Permanent ..	833	5,184	6,017	894	4,990	5,884	639	4,231	4,870	639	4,231	4,870
Total Perm. FT EOY	833	5,184	6,017	894	4,990	5,884	639	4,231	4,870	639	4,231	4,870
FTE[1].....	1,283	6,741	8,024	1,079	6,657	7,736	639	7,411	8,050	639	7,142	7,781

[1] In addition to these numbers above, there are temporary positions as well.

VEHICLE FLEET

Motor Vehicle Fleet

APHIS uses vehicles to deliver mission critical services. The Agency's veterinarians, animal health technicians, inspectors, plant protection and quarantine officers, wildlife biologists, and other technical personnel use motor vehicles in their daily responsibilities. This includes traveling for employees to conduct field visits, travel to the airports and field stations, and attend meetings, conferences, and training. The vehicles are used by the local offices to make short trips as required; some of them are driven within airports and quarantine areas where they cannot leave the facility.

APHIS has replaced some of the passenger vehicles with SUVs or light-duty trucks. The number of passenger vehicles has decreased in recent years.

Replacement Criteria

APHIS replaces vehicles in accordance with Title 41, CFR § 102–34.270 and the Agriculture Property Management Regulation Advisory 20-01, Vehicle Allocation Methodology Guidance for Vehicle Utilization Criteria and Lifecycle Model, dated October 1, 2019. Agency programs replace and retire vehicles using data on utilization, age, condition, and funding availability. For agency-owned vehicles, passenger vehicles must have mileage of at least 60,000 or three years of age. For GSA leased vehicles, passenger vehicles must have mileage at least 60,000 or five years of age. In addition, both owned and leased vehicles must be driven at least 7,500 miles annually or have 80 days of use in a fiscal year. The vehicles not meeting the USDA utilization criteria are required to be justified by the programs for review and approval. Justifications are based on mission requirements and vehicle reassignments. The programs are required to complete the USDA Lifecycle Model to perform an owning versus leasing analysis to determine the most cost-effective option to acquire the vehicles. The lifecycle model is used as a tool to document all owned and leased acquisitions.

Reductions to Fleet

The annual reporting of APHIS' vehicle inventory has remained under the 2018 based line number of 4,595 since 2019, and through 2025, due to vehicle production challenges and supply chain issues. The limited vehicle availability and uncertainty of vehicle production contribute to longer vehicle delivery times. The vehicles ordered in one fiscal year are not generally received and accounted for until the next fiscal year. Due to this reason, APHIS' fleet reported in the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) system has been decreasing but will increase once all the vehicles ordered are delivered. In 2026, APHIS' fleet will expand to meet mission requirements, but it will stay within the vehicle inventory-based line number.

Table APHIS-3. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating Inventory	**246**	**118**	**955**	**272**	**2,092**	**896**	**-**	**16**	**4,595**	**$19,465,575**
2024 End of Year Operating Inventory	**129**	**77**	**841**	**188**	**2,108**	**1,001**	**-**	**13**	**4,357**	**24,058,342**
2025 Actual Acquisitions	9	7	73	13	184	83	-	1	370	
2025 Actual Disposals.....	29	18	118	28	197	101	-	-	491	
2025 End of Year Operating Inventory	**109**	**66**	**796**	**173**	**2,095**	**983**	**-**	**14**	**4,236**	**23,056,452**
2026 Planned Acquisitions.....	36	42	95	49	342	143	-	-	707	
2026 Planned Disposals	26	22	75	29	276	68	-	-	487	
2026 End of Year Operating Inventory	**119**	**86**	**816**	**193**	**2,170**	**1,058**	**-**	**14**	**4,456**	**25,175,188**
2027 Planned Acquisitions.....	26	22	75	29	267	68	-	-	487	
2027 Planned Disposals	26	22	75	29	267	68	-	-	487	
2027 End of Year Operating Inventory	**119**	**86**	**816**	**193**	**2,170**	**1,058**	**-**	**14**	**4,456**	**25,930,443**

Table APHIS-4. Statement of Proposed Acquisition of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2024	148	24	5	-	5	129
2025	129	29	9	-	9	109
2026	109	26	36	-	36	119
2027	119	26	26	-	26	119

Aircraft

APHIS uses aircraft to conduct mission critical activities such as sterile insect release (including New World screwwworm and exotic fruit flies), aerial resource and surveillance surveys, aerial application tests, equipment demonstration and testing, implementation of methods for the control and/or eradication of destructive plant pests or wildlife to reduce damage to agricultural crops and protect livestock, oral rabies vaccination bait distribution, among others.

The annual appropriations act provides APHIS with authority to purchase, replace, operate, and maintain aircraft. The Agency replaces aircraft when necessary to maintain fleet safety and efficient operating conditions. APHIS is exploring options to potentially purchase additional aircraft to support the dispersal of sterile new world screwworms that will be produced at the new facility at Moore Air Base in south Texas.

The APHIS aircraft fleet consists of 87 aircraft, of which 6 operational and 1 non-operational aircraft are used for domestic plant pest and disease management programs and are all owned. APHIS is repairing the non-operational aircraft and expects it to be fully operational in calendar year 2026. APHIS is working to procure three new aircraft for plant pest and disease management programs, a process that will take approximately two years. APHIS will excess four existing pest control aircraft and use one for additional aircraft parts. This will result in a total of six aircraft supporting pest control programs (five operational and one for parts). Of the remaining 80 aircraft used to support various wildlife damage management programs, 75 are owned, 3 are borrowed from State cooperators, and 2 are rented. Of the 75 aircraft owned, 2 are non-operational. APHIS retains certain non-operational aircraft for parts.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table APHIS-5. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center	$1,379	$1,320	-	-
Fleet Charge Card Service	-	192	$103	$103
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	122	1,510	1,510
Human Resources Enterprise System Management	932	918	1,026	1,029
Integrated Procurement Systems	1,447	1,005	797	797
Mail and Reproduction Management Division	380	412	337	338
Material Management Service Center	917	927	843	848
Procurement Operations Division	163	140	133	133
Subtotal	5,218	5,036	4,749	4,758
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	4,684	4,682	1,566	1,501
Finance and Management:				
Internal Control Support Services	160	173	133	133
Personnel and Document Security Program	431	473	447	0
Financial Shared Services	11,486	11,164	9,147	9,200
National Finance Center	2,542	2,405	2,262	2,262
Subtotal	14,619	14,215	11,989	11,595
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	29,433	30,695	24,502	23,390
Departmental Administration Information Technology Office	307	270	251	-
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	22,537	11,788	10,163	10,415
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	4,627	4,617	4,606	4,606
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	3,563	3,012	1,005	1,031
Enterprise Network Services	12,537	14,183	9,693	9,693
Subtotal	73,004	64,565	50,220	49,135
Correspondence Management Services				
Office of the Executive Secretariat	435	171	136	136
Total, Working Capital Fund	97,960	88,669	68,660	67,125
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	9	9	3	3
Agency Partnership Outreach	586	603	331	349
America's Agricultural Heritage	-	-	52	40
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	208	46	-	-
Employee Experience	296	233	26	-
Medical Service	26	-	-	-
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	158	180	135	135
OCFO Shared Services Branch	-	-	59	105
Office of Customer Experience	239	117	9	-
Physical Security	375	490	236	239
Security Detail	426	660	1,410	1,428
Security Operations	594	573	643	643
Talent Group	264	281	34	-
TARGET Center	129	134	110	110
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	3,310	3,326	3,048	3,052
Agency Total	101,270	91,995	71,708	70,177

ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Salaries and Expenses (Including Transfers of Funds)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to $30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), [$1,157,534,000]$1,147,006,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which [$594,551,000]$589,032,000 shall remain available until expended,[of which $11,384,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to remain available until expended, and] of which $8,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, [2027]2028: *Provided*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the purchase, replacement, operation, and maintenance of aircraft: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary must notify the Committees on Appropriations about any transfer of funds in the preceding proviso within 15 days after such transfer being made: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year [2026]2027, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain able until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

Change Description

This change (line 6 - 10 of paragraph 1) removes language related to Congressionally Directed Spending projects.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table APHIS-6. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	$1,157,534,000
Change in Appropriation	-10,528,000
Budget Estimate, 2027	1,147,006,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table APHIS-7. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response											
Animal Health Technical Services	$40,000	151	$40,000	151	$42,500	151	$42,500	151	-	-	
Aquatic Animal Health	4,500	18	4,500	18	4,500	18	4,500	18	-	-	
Avian Health	65,000	238	65,000	238	65,000	238	65,000	238	-	-	
Cattle Health	111,000	493	111,000	493	111,000	493	115,500	493	+$4,500	-	(1)
Equine, Cervid & Small Ruminant Health	35,000	116	35,000	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cervid & Small Ruminant Health	-	-	-	-	32,800	108	25,058	108	-7,742	-	(2)
Equine Health	-	-	-	-	2,450	8	2,200	8	-250	-	(3)
National Veterinary Stockpile	6,000	6	6,000	6	6,250	6	6,250	6	-	-	
Swine Health	26,500	143	26,500	143	27,000	143	27,000	143	-	-	
Veterinary Biologics	21,000	123	21,000	123	21,000	123	21,000	123	-	-	
Veterinary Diagnostics	63,000	193	63,000	193	63,000	193	63,000	193	-	-	
Zoonotic Disease Management	21,000	62	21,000	62	21,000	62	21,000	62	-	-	
Subtotal, Animal Health	393,000	1,543	393,000	1,543	396,500	1,543	393,008	1,543	-3,492	-	
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)	35,500	367	35,500	367	35,500	367	35,500	367	-	-	
Cotton Pests	15,500	49	15,500	49	15,500	49	15,500	49	-	-	
Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	12,000	77	12,000	77	11,000	77	9,026	77	-1,974	-	(4)
Pest Detection	29,000	186	29,000	186	29,000	186	29,000	186	-	-	
Plant Protection Methods Development	21,500	130	21,500	130	21,500	130	21,500	130	-	-	
Specialty Crop Pests	215,000	796	215,000	796	214,000	796	217,339	796	+3,339	-	(5)
Tree & Wood Pests	59,000	292	59,000	292	58,650	292	58,650	292	-	-	
Subtotal, Plant Health	387,500	1,897	387,500	1,897	385,150	1,897	386,515	1,897	1,365	-	
Wildlife Damage Management	122,500	623	122,500	623	122,750	623	126,227	623	+3,477	-	(6)
Wildlife Services Methods Development	25,500	126	25,500	126	25,500	126	25,500	126	-	-	
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	148,000	749	148,000	749	148,250	749	151,727	749	3,477	-	
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	18,500	118	18,500	118	18,500	118	18,500	118	-	-	
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	19,500	92	19,500	92	19,500	92	19,500	92	-	-	
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	38,000	210	38,000	210	38,000	210	38,000	210	-	-	
Contingency Fund	250	3	250	3	250	3	250	3	-	-	
Emergency Preparedness & Response	44,500	197	44,500	197	44,250	197	44,250	197	-	-	
Subtotal, Emergency Management	44,750	200	44,750	200	44,500	200	44,500	200	-	-	
Subtotal Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response	1,011,250	4,599	1,011,250	4,599	1,012,400	4,599	1,013,750	4,599	1,350	-	
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance											
Agriculture Import/Export	18,750	81	18,750	81	18,500	81	18,750	81	+250	-	(7)
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	25,500	57	25,500	57	25,500	57	25,500	57	-	-	
Subtotal, Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance	44,250	138	44,250	138	44,000	138	44,250	138	250	-	
Animal Welfare											
Animal Welfare	37,250	259	37,250	259	37,250	259	37,250	259	-	-	
Horse Protection	3,500	16	3,500	16	3,500	16	3,500	16	-	-	
Subtotal, Animal Welfare	40,750	275	40,750	275	40,750	275	40,750	275	-	-	
Agency Wide Programs											

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	
Physical/Operational Security	5,000	4	5,000	4	5,000	4	5,000	4	-	-	
Rent and DHS Security Payments	42,500	-	42,500	-	40,000	-	39,256	-	-744	-	(8)
Subtotal, Agency Wide Programs	51,500	4	51,500	4	49,000	4	48,256	4	-744	-	
Congressionally Direct Spending	14,276	-	-	-	11,384	-	-	-	-11,384	-	(9)
Commodity Credit Corporation	1,142,284	165	129,201	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfer from AMS	-	-	562,746	200	398,617	-	-	-	-398,617	-	
Transfer from OSEC	-	-	652,383	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal Disc. Approps	2,304,310	5,181	2,492,080	5,300	1,556,151	5,016	1,147,006	5,016	-409,145	-	
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Farm Bill, Section 7721	75,000	26	75,000	26	90,000	20	90,000	20	-	-	
Farm Bill, Section 2408	7,500	52	52,500	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Farm Bill, Section 12101	30,000	2	30,000	2	233,000	8	233,000	8	-	-	
Sequester P.L. 113-6…Farm Bill	-5,985	-	-5,985	-	-	-	-18,411	-	-18,411	-	
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fees:											
Total Collections	867,292	1,325	1,027,371	1,390	1,081,000	1,390	1,105,000	1,390	+24,000	-	
Less: Transfer to DHS	-360,152	-	-441,083	-	-486,533	-	-515,667	-	-29,134	-	
Sequester P.L. 113-6 ...AQI	-47,025	-	-54,150	-	-61,617	-	-62,985	-	-1,368	-	
Sequester Restored…AQI User Fees	44,346	-	47,025	-	54,150	-	61,617	-	+7,467	-	
Trust Funds	12,931	50	20,314	50	14,500	50	14,500	50	-	-	
Foreign Service National Separation Liability Trust	1,477	-	1,241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	625,384	1,455	752,233	1,718	924,500	1,468	907,054	1,468	-17,446	-	
Total Adjusted Appropriations	2,929,694	6,636	3,244,313	7,018	2,480,651	6,484	2,054,060	6,484	-426,591	-	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out, Rescissions	-782,132	-165	-903,247	-284	87,916	-	515,667	-	+427,751	-	
Sequestration	8,664	-	13,110	-	7,467	-	19,779	-	+12,312	-	
Total Appropriation	2,156,226	6,471	2,354,176	6,734	2,576,034	6,484	2,589,506	6,484	+13,472	-	
Transfers In:											
Commodity Credit Corporation	1,142,284	165	129,201	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers From AMS			562,746	200	398,617	-	-	-	-398,617	-	
Transfer from OSEC			652,383	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Transfers In	1,142,284	165	1,344,330	284	398,617	-	-	-	-398,617	-	
Transfers Out:											
Transfer to DHS	-360,152	-	-441,083	-	-486,533	-	-515,667	-	-29,134	-	
Total Transfers Out	-360,152	-	-441,083	-	-486,533	-	-515,667	-	-29,134	-	
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sequestration	-8,664	-	-13,110	-	-7,467	-	-19,779	-	-12,312	-	
Balances Interchange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	
Recoveries, Other	68,227	-	45,345	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rescinded Balances	-5,000	-	-5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Balance Available, SOY	1,348,372	1,306	1,606,140	1,287	2,082,487	1,595	740,066	1,535	-1,243,804	-60	
Total Available	4,341,292	7,942	4,890,798	8,305	4,563,138	8,079	2,794,126	8,019	-1,670,395	-60	
Lapsing Balances	-1,830	-477	-7,188	-667	-	-111	-	-111	-	-	
Transferred Balances	-312,076	-	-199,717	-	-243,266	-	-257,833	-	-14,567	-	
Balance Available, EOY	-1,606,140	-1,287	-2,082,487	-1,595	-838,683	-1,535	-721,249	-1,744	+117,434	-209	
Total Obligations	2,421,246	6,178	2,601,406	6,043	3,481,189	6,433	1,815,044	6,164	-1,567,528	-269	

Table APHIS-8. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response										
Animal Health Technical Services	$38,958	125	$37,684	125	$44,709	143	45,000	143	+$291	-
Aquatic Animal Health	4,490	18	4,295	18	4,500	16	4,500	16	-	-
Avian Health	59,222	238	60,599	238	67,973	229	68,000	229	+27	-
Cattle Health	110,981	477	109,095	430	112,305	484	112,000	484	-305	-
Equine, Cervid & Small Ruminant Health	34,983	116	34,790	110	-	-			-	-
Cervid & Small Ruminant Health	-	-	-	-	32,800	101	25,058	101	-7,742	-
Equine Health	-	-	-	-	2,450	8	2,200	8	-250	-
National Veterinary Stockpile	6,409	6	4,092	7	6,500	5	7,000	5	+500	-
Swine Health	26,469	128	26,265	111	27,000	134	27,000	134	-	-
Veterinary Biologics	20,926	100	20,942	98	21,000	116	21,000	116	-	-
Veterinary Diagnostics	68,228	158	56,402	144	65,497	186	66,000	186	+503	-
Zoonotic Disease Management	17,441	62	22,748	62	22,273	60	22,000	60	-273	-
Subtotal, Animal Health	388,107	1,428	376,912	1,343	407,007	1,482	399,758	1,482	-7,249	-
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)	33,385	367	33,680	367	35,500	367	36,000	367	+500	-
Cotton Pests	15,875	22	15,149	22	15,601	49	16,000	49	+399	-
Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	14,464	56	8,278	51	13,865	76	11,490	65	-2,375	-11
Pest Detection	28,981	124	28,585	107	29,000	184	29,000	184	-	-
Plant Protection Methods Development	21,475	98	20,502	93	21,500	128	21,500	128	-	-
Specialty Crop Pests	218,902	778	202,644	727	228,526	755	229,000	755	+474	-
Tree & Wood Pests	61,272	254	56,599	243	60,072	277	60,000	277	-72	-
Subtotal, Plant Health	394,355	1,699	365,437	1,610	404,064	1,836	402,990	1,825	-1,074	-11
Wildlife Damage Management	121,652	599	123,574	623	125,298	552	125,000	552	-298	-
Wildlife Services Methods Development	25,314	103	24,780	103	26,164	115	26,000	115	-164	-
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	146,966	702	148,354	726	151,462	667	151,000	667	-462	-
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	18,456	106	18,403	108	18,500	100	18,500	100	-	-
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	19,389	89	18,772	89	19,500	70	19,500	70	-	-
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	37,845	195	37,175	197	38,000	170	38,000	170	-	-
Emergency Preparedness & Response	43,657	203	41,551	203	49,622	187	50,000	187	+378	-
Subtotal, Emergency Management	43,657	203	41,551	203	49,622	187	50,000	187	+378	-
Subtotal Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response	1,010,930	4,227	969,429	4,079	1,050,155	4,342	1,041,748	4,331	-8,407	-11
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance										
Agriculture Import/Export	18,719	76	18,552	68	18,500	79	18,750	79	+250	-
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	25,294	57	25,347	46	25,500	54	25,500	54	-	-
Subtotal Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance	44,013	133	43,899	114	44,000	133	44,250	133	+250	-
Animal Welfare										
Animal Welfare	37,086	200	36,255	200	37,250	224	37,250	224	-	-
Horse Protection	3,462	14	2,883	14	3,500	14	3,500	14	-	-
Subtotal, Animal Welfare	40,548	214	39,138	214	40,750	238	40,750	238	-	-
Agency Wide Programs										
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	3,069	-	2,429	-	6,217	-	4,500	-	-1,717	-
Physical/Operational Security	4,677	3	4,727	2	5,000	4	5,000	4	-	-
Rent and DHS Security Payments	42,463	-	41,790	-	40,000	-	39,256	-	-744	-
Subtotal, Agency Wide Programs	50,209	3	48,946	2	51,217	4	48,756	4	-2,461	-
Congressionally Direct Spending	14,268	-	-	-	6,830	-	4,554	-	-2,276	-
General Provision 775 – Cogongrass	-	-	-	-	1,536	-	-	-	-1,536	-

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)	855,349	256	1,101,251	280	1,700,000	308	171,733	50	-1,528,267	-258
Subtotal Disc. Obligations	2,015,317	4,833	2,202,663	4,689	2,894,488	5,025	1,351,791	4,756	-1,542,697	-269
Mandatory Obligations:										
Farm Bill, Section 7721	70,653	20	70,625	2	90,000	20	84,870	20	-5,130	-
Farm Bill, Section 2408	7,499	24	-	-	7,500	36	7,500	36	-	-
Farm Bill, Section 12101	29,566	8	29,652	19	120,000	4	120,000	4	-	-
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fees	267,470	1,232	276,364	1,291	351,201	1,310	331,500	1,310	-19,701	-
Trust Funds	13,288	37	18,000	38	18,000	38	18,000	38	-	-
Foreign Service National Separation Liability Trust	1,582	-	1,241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	390,058	1,321	395,882	1,350	586,701	1,408	561,870	1,408	-24,831	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
American Rescue Plan	15,871	24	2,861	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Supp Obligations	15,871	24	2,861	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	2,421,246	6,178	2,601,406	6,043	3,481,189	6,433	1,913,661	6,164	-1,567,528	-269
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	1,830	477	7,188	667	-	111	-	111	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Animal Health Technical Services	6,993	46	9,465	57	7,256	65	4,756	73	-2,500	+8
Avian Health	22,184	27	27,672	27	24,699	36	21,699	45	-3,000	+9
Cattle Health	1,481	-	3,253	10	1,948	19	5,448	28	+3,500	+9
Equine Cervid & Small Ruminant Health	500	-	500	-	500	-	500	-	-	-
National Veterinary Stockpile	1,879	3	4,521	2	4,271	3	3,521	4	-750	+1
Veterinary Diagnostics	35,038	-	37,027	19	34,530	26	31,530	33	-3,000	+7
Zoonotic Disease Management	9,995	-	8,750	-	7,477	2	6,477	4	-1,000	+2
Emergency Preparedness & Response	19,123	6	22,475	-	17,103	10	11,353	20	-5,750	+10
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)	2,115	-	4,025	-	4,025	-	3,525	-	-500	-
Cotton Pests	442	11	837	6	736	6	236	6	-500	-
Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	1,753	61	5,830	77	2,965	78	501	90	-2,464	+12
Specialty Crop Pests	27,919	218	43,852	277	29,326	318	17,665	359	-11,661	+41
Tree & Wood Pests	2,253	82	5,042	110	3,620	125	2,270	140	-1,350	+15
Wildlife Damage Management	6,482	-	7,758	-	5,210	71	6,437	142	+1,227	+71
Wildlife Services Methods Development	1,349	-	1,766	-	1,102	11	602	22	-500	+11
Contingency Funds	4,150	33	4,400	36	4,650	39	4,900	42	+250	+3
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	1,133	-	3,136	-	919	-	419	-	-500	-
Congressionally Direct Spending	-	-	-	-	4,554	-	-		-4,554	-
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)	1,196,565	298	1,473,116	358	171,733	50	-	-	-171,733	-50
General Provision 775 – Cogongrass	1,357	-	1,536	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision 797 – Cogongrass	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H1N1 Supplemental	52	-	52	-	52	-	52	-	-	-
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fees	244,930	471	345,956	323	338,489	403	337,121	483	-1,368	+80
American Rescue Plan Act	3,569	-	1,844	-	1,844	-	1,844	-	-	-
Farm Bill Section 12101	6,835	3	6,242	3	119,242	7	218,961	11	+99,719	+4
Farm Bill Section 2408	-	-	52,500	250	45,000	214	37,500	178	-7,500	-36
Trust Funds	8,041	28	10,932	40	7,432	52	3,932	64	-3,500	+12
Total Bal. Available, EOY	1,606,140	1,287	2,082,487	1,595	838,683	1,535	721,249	1,744	-117,434	+209
Total Available	4,029,216	7,942	4,691,081	8,305	4,319,872	8,079	2,634,910	8,019	-1,684,962	-60
Less:										
Total Transfers In	-1,142,284	-165	-1,344,330	-284	-398,617	-	-	-	+398,617	-
Transferred Balances	312,076		199,717		243,266		257,833		+14,567	
Total Transfers Out	360,152	-	441,083	-	486,533	-	515,667	-	+29,134	-
Sequestration	8,664	-	13,110	-	7,467	-	19,779	-	+12,312	-

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Recoveries, Other	-68,227	-	-45,345	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescinded Balances	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY	-1,348,372	-1,306	-1,606,140	-1,287	-2,082,487	-1,595	-838,683	-1,535	+1,243,804	+60
Total Appropriation	2,156,226	6,471	2,354,176	6,734	2,576,034	6,484	2,589,506	6,484	+13,472	-

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Base funds for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service support a range of critical activities across North America and worldwide. These funds are essential to the continued success of the program, as any stoppages or reductions would interrupt ongoing projects and potentially cause catastrophic consequences for environmental health.

Continuation of the program is critical for several reasons:

- APHIS keeps America's agricultural animals healthy. A critical part of this work includes responding to serious animal diseases—and preventing these diseases from entering the United States. Agency experts work with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, industry organizations, and state departments of agriculture to protect America's valuable livestock, poultry, swine, and equine industries.
- American farms and forests produce vast resources for our country, and the world. Millions of people depend on our Nation's plants for food, clothing, fuel, and jobs. APHIS protects these resources from harmful pests and diseases, so they stay healthy and profitable.
- Working with foreign governments and industries to help build capacity to control, manage, and eradicate pests and diseases. APHIS helps international partners establish and manage sustainable animal and plant health programs to ensure the safe trade of agriculture commodities between our countries, to help feed and clothe the world.
- Wildlife are one of America's most valued public resources. Yet wildlife-related problems, including disease threats, livestock predation, crop losses, property damage, and more, are common. In response, the Agency leads our Nation's efforts to find innovative solutions that protect people, agriculture, and wildlife.
- Protecting more than 1 million vulnerable animals nationwide by enforcing two important laws: the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Through inspections and outreach, we oversee thousands of breeders, dealers, and exhibitors; research facilities; transporters; dog importers; and managers of horse shows, exhibitions, and sales to make sure their animals receive care and treatment that meets Federal standards.
- APHIS helps American agriculture stay at the forefront of science and innovation. From healthier fruit, vegetable, and oil crops to products that reduce the use of pesticides and those that have higher yields, we evaluate the safety of new products developed using genetic engineering. The Agency works alongside other Federal agencies to make sure these products are safe for U.S. agriculture and the environment.

These funds will be utilized for salaries and benefits, contracts and agreements, equipment, and other normal operating costs such as supplies, rent, and travel to conduct program activities. The Agency will continue to identify efficiencies in 2027. In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, APHIS will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a Federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple-charging the public for the same product.

Base funding supports the APHIS mission to protect the health and value of America's agricultural and natural resources and aligns with the USDA Strategic goal to ensure America's agricultural system is equitable, resilient, and prosperous.

The numbers of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

(1) Cattle Health program: An increase of $4,500,000 ($111,000,000 and 493 FTE available in 2026).

The Cattle Health program protects and improves the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the U.S. cattle and dairy industries, valued at $134 billion in 2024 (USDA, National Agricultural

Statistics Service). The Cattle Health program has two major goals: to rapidly detect and respond to diseases that could significantly affect the U.S. cattle and bison population and prevent the spread of any newly detected disease in the United States as well as endemic domestic cattle and bison diseases of concern. The Cattle Health program conducts activities related to surveillance and monitoring, disease prevention, disease investigation, and outbreak response actions. In addition, APHIS maintains regulations, national program standards, and guidelines that direct cattle health activities at Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels. Establishing and maintaining these standards is critical to supporting interstate and international commerce by providing assurances about the health of cattle or bison being moved or traded.

APHIS conducts surveillance for foreign, emerging, and endemic diseases, including bovine tuberculosis (TB), brucellosis, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) as well as disease vectors, such as the cattle fever tick (CFT), and New World screwworm (NWS). The Agency conducts surveillance through cattle testing on-farm as well as slaughter facilities, livestock markets, shows, sales, buying stations (first-point testing), and rendering facilities (operations that collect dead, dying, disabled, and diseased animals). APHIS also works with Canada and Mexico to exclude foot-and-mouth disease, NWS, and other cattle diseases.

APHIS and cooperators, in the past, have eradicated the New World screwworm (NWS) from the United States, Mexico, Belize, portions of the Caribbean, and down through Central America to the southern-most portion of Panama. APHIS prevents the reestablishment of NWS in the United States by collaborating with Panama and Colombia to maintain a biological barrier zone in the Darien Gap, along the Colombia/Panama border. The program relies on a sterile insect technique, a process where APHIS and cooperators produce and sterilize insects at a jointly managed facility in Panama and release them in the barrier zone to mate with wild insects, thereby preventing reproduction. The United States also has access to the sterile flies in the event of an outbreak in U.S. territory. In 2025, the program continued addressing the unprecedented NWS outbreak, confirming numerous cases throughout Central America and in Mexico. APHIS and the U.S.-Panama Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG) worked with the ministries of agriculture of the affected countries and international organizations including the International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to continue implementing a regional response, including increased sterile insect production and release, increased inspections and treatment of livestock, and outreach to farmers and ranchers to increase awareness of the threat and provide information on how to prevent and treat NWS infections on animals. APHIS and Mexico's National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) developed a joint action plan to eradicate the pest and prevent its movement towards the U.S. border. Using emergency funds transferred to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation, the program-maintained production at approximately 100 million per week (from an average of 20 million per week before the outbreak began). APHIS anticipates it will take several years of intensive efforts with Mexico, other affected countries, OIRSA, and IICA to eradicate the outbreak and prevent further spread. This work is critical to preventing NWS from reestablishing in Central America and spreading to the United States. Keeping the United States free of NWS saves $1.5 billion annually for cattle producers (APHIS internal analysis).

Overall, base funding for the Cattle Health Program currently supports salaries and benefits, cooperative and programmatic contracts, and other normal operating costs such as travel, supplies, rent, and utilities to conduct program activities.

A) An increase of $4,500,000 in no-year funding and 0 FTE for New World Screwworm.

APHIS proposes an increase of $4,500,000 in no-year funding for New World Screwworm to begin expanding base funding for this long-term response program into the Cattle Health line item. This increase would provide a total of $24,603,000 in the Cattle Health line item for NWS response, of which $9,490,000 would be no-year funding. Current funding supports the production and release of 20 million sterile insects per week at the program's Panama facility. Using emergency funding to respond to outbreaks in Central America and Mexico, the

program increased production to 100 million per week at the Panama facility, and APHIS is pursuing initiatives to build capacity to 500 million sterile insects per week through new production facilities in the United States and Mexico as well as increased surveillance and other control activities. The effort to push NWS populations back to the previous barrier zone at Panama's border with Colombia is expected to take several decades. The Agency needs to identify long-term funding to support this effort to protect U.S. cattle and other livestock, pets, and human health from the threat of NWS and this increase would be an important first step in supporting this long-term response. The requested increase would support the Agency's expanded response effort and work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build the new sterile NWS production facility in the United States. Prior to the outbreak's expansion in Mexico, APHIS' NWS operations were concentrated in Panama. APHIS is maintaining sterile insect production operations in Panama but now also conducting operations in the United States and coordinating with multiple other U.S. agencies, including the U.S. Department fo Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administrative, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. This increase will support a portion of U.S. NWS operations, including project management support for facility planning and coordination for the whole of government response effort. APHIS estimates that an NWS reinfestation in the United States could cause billions in annual economic losses.

(2) Cervid and Small Ruminant Health program: A decrease of $7,742,000 ($32,800,000 and 113 FTE available in 2026).

The Cervid and Small Ruminant Health (CSRH) program protects the health and improves the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the cervid, sheep, and goat industries. APHIS activities include monitoring, surveillance, investigation, response, and disease prevention and preparedness to address animal health issues. The Agency's monitoring and surveillance activities detect foreign, emerging, zoonotic, and domestic diseases that could substantially impact the economy. APHIS also works with domestic and international trading partners to facilitate safe trade in cervids and small ruminants and their products and ensure that diseases of trade concern are reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health when detected. The CSRH program conducts disease surveillance and monitoring activities for scrapie, chronic wasting disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (TB).

In 2025, APHIS made approximately $12 million available for cooperative agreements with States and Tribal governments to further develop and implement CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities, including improved management of CWD-affected farmed and wild cervid populations; improved management of CWD-affected areas or premises; research on amplification assays and other new diagnostic methods; research on the application or implementation of a whole genome predictive genetics CWD management plan for farmed cervid herds; and development and distribution of educational materials or programs. For farmed cervid CWD projects. APHIS funded cooperative agreements with 16 State departments of agriculture or State animal health agencies and 3 universities or research institutions in 2025. To support wild cervid CWD management projects, APHIS funded agreements with 18 State wildlife agencies, 9 Tribal governments, and 5 universities in 2025. APHIS also provided approximately $2.89M in direct indemnity to cervid producers for depopulated CWD positive and exposed cervids.

Overall, base funding for the CSRH program currently supports salaries and benefits, contracts and agreements, equipment, and other normal operating costs such as supplies, rent, and travel to conduct program activities.

A) A reduction of $7,742,000 and 0 FTE for chronic wasting disease.

At the direction of Congress, APHIS has facilitated the distribution of funds directly to State departments of wildlife, State departments of agriculture, Native American Tribes, and research institutions and universities further develop and implement CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities, including development and evaluation of techniques and strategies to prevent or control CWD in wild and farmed cervids. In recent

years, the agency has been unable to fully utilize this funding. A reduction of $7.492 million will still leave approximately $5 million for these agreements, which would be sufficient to support current needs. APHIS will continue to use information gathered from previously funded projects to improve the prevention or control of the disease spread in wild and farmed cervid populations. At the proposed funding level, APHIS will continue to fund the highest priority proposals that address CWD research, management, and response activities in farmed and wild cervids.

(3) Equine Health Program: A decrease of $250,000 ($2,450,000 and 8 FTE in 2026).

APHIS collaborates with Federal, State, and industry partners to protect the equine industry from disease, improve the health of our domestic herd, and protect human health. These activities improve trade and facilitate equine movement, which are vital to maintaining the industry's economic value. APHIS provides veterinary support and consultation to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program through an interagency cooperative agreement.

APHIS provides expertise and helps develop the industry's National Equine Health Plan. The plan functions as a roadmap for owners, veterinarians, and industry organizations to coordinate with State and Federal animal health officials to recognize, prevent, control, and respond to equine diseases. APHIS integrates the roles of the State and Federal health officials with industry stakeholders to improve both equine health and the industry by decreasing the impact of infectious disease on the horse economy.

Overall, base funding for the Equine Health Program currently supports salaries and benefits, cooperative and programmatic contracts, and other normal operating costs such as travel, supplies, rent, and utilities to conduct program activities.

1. A reduction of $250,000 and 0 FTE for Eastern equine encephalitis.

   Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is a highly fatal mosquito-borne viral disease that affects the central nervous system of equids. APHIS provides funding to impacted northeastern States for EEE surveillance, testing, prevention, and research. In recent years, States have struggled to fully spend the funding provided due to a variety of factors including lack of interest and participation from industry and a discrepancy in regulatory authority from the State departments of agriculture. At the proposed funding level, States would be responsible for fully funding these activities.

(4) Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystem Pests program: A decrease of $1,974,000 ($11,000,000 and 77 FTE available in 2026).

The Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystem Pests (FCREP) program protects U.S. agricultural crops and rangelands from the establishment or spread of invasive or economically significant pests. In doing so, it facilitates safe international trade and domestic commerce, preserves economic opportunities for U.S. farmers and ranchers, and fosters healthy ecosystems in rangelands and other areas. APHIS conducts survey and suppression activities in western States to reduce grasshopper and Mormon cricket (GMC) infestations that could cause significant economic losses for livestock producers by requiring them to buy supplemental feed or sell their livestock at reduced prices. APHIS develops treatments for land managers to remove imported fire ant (IFA) from their products and prevent re-infestation; conducts regulatory activities to prevent Karnal bunt (KB) and IFA from "hitchhiking" on regulated articles (i.e., nursery stock and farm equipment) to uninfested areas of the United States and foreign countries through trade; and, conducts survey, treatment, and regulatory activities for witchweed infestations in North Carolina and South Carolina to protect U.S. corn production. This program directly protects more than 230,000 acres of wheat and corn (based on APHIS analysis). It indirectly protects all U.S. wheat and corn production, valued at more than $106 billion in calendar year 2022 (National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crop Values 2022 Summary), from the spread of KB and witchweed.

When grasshopper populations reach outbreak levels, they can decimate grasslands. APHIS' GMC program monitors and protects 661 million acres of rangeland each year. A 2012 University of Wyoming study found that healthy rangeland provides forage value worth $6.7 billion and overall benefits ranging from $10.7 to $21.2 billion. Each year, APHIS conducts surveys in western States for GMC, collecting data at 13,589 survey points in 2025, to determine where potential outbreaks could occur and where treatments might be necessary.

The program also addresses witchweed, a parasitic plant that can significantly damage corn, sorghum, and sugarcane. If witchweed were to spread throughout the Corn Belt, crop yields for corn and sorghum could decrease by 10 percent and trade in commodities from these areas could be negatively impacted. APHIS' IFA program works to prevent human-assisted spread of this pest by requiring treatment of materials capable of harboring IFA, such as nursery stock and hay, are treated before leaving infested areas. The economic impact if IFA reached all suitable habitats in the United States where the pest could become established would be greater than $10.6 billion per year (Economic Evaluation of the Regulatory Program for Imported Fire Ants, APHIS, March 2018).

APHIS coordinates an annual voluntary survey of the grain delivered to elevators to check for KB across the country and conducts regulatory activities to prevent the spread of the disease from the remaining infested area in Arizona. Based on the program's quarantine and survey data, APHIS issues export certificates that are required by countries importing U.S. wheat. These certificates demonstrate to trading partners the safety of U.S. wheat exports, retaining export markets and facilitating wheat movement into international markets. If KB funding was eliminated, the disease could enter the grain market system and directly impact almost every State. Many trading partners will not accept U.S. wheat exports unless the commodity is certified to be from areas where KB is not known to occur. Working with cooperators, APHIS has reduced the wheat production areas regulated for KB from all or portions of 4 States to approximately 40,000 acres in Arizona since 1996 (with 2,589 acres removed from quarantine in 2025). APHIS will continue survey and regulatory activities aimed at keeping KB from causing damage and/or trade disruptions in 2027.

The FCREP program has also worked to address pests and other stressors that impact roseau cane, an important grass species in wetland areas of the lower Mississippi Delta, Louisiana. The plant's root system provides wildlife habitat, protects the interior from storm surges, and protects riverbanks from erosion, which impacts the Mississippi River navigation channel. Since 2017, researchers from Louisiana State University (LSU) and Agricultural Research Services (ARS) have investigated multiple potential stressors causing dieback of roseau cane in the Mississippi River Delta. These stressors include high water levels, salinity intrusion, scale insects, plant pathogens, and soil chemistry. The work to date by the roseau cane die-back team has improved our understanding of plant stressors on roseau cane and the biology, distribution, feeding ecology, and impact of the scale insect attacking the cane at the Mississippi River Delta. LSU projects are ongoing related to stressors on roseau cane and methods development for restoration.

APHIS also works with States to address cogongrass, an invasive perennial weed that is a prolific seed producer and forms an extensive rhizome network underground. The wind-dispersed seeds are easily spread along rights of way encouraging population expansion. Cogongrass invades pine plantations and is believed to create chemical interference that decreases pine production. Controlling this weed is difficult because its rhizomes are drought, fire, and herbicide tolerant.

Overall, base funding for the FCREP program currently supports salaries and benefits, cooperative agreements, and programmatic contracts. Other funding supports normal operating expenses such as rent, utilities, travel, supplies, and equipment to conduct program activities.

A) A decrease of $750,000 and 0 FTE to eliminate funding for cogongrass.

Cogongrass is an invasive perennial weed that is a prolific seed producer and forms an extensive rhizome network underground. The wind-dispersed seeds are easily spread along rights of way encouraging population expansion. Cogongrass invades pine plantations and is

believed to create chemical interference that decreases pine production. Controlling this weed is difficult because its rhizomes are drought, fire, and herbicide tolerant. APHIS provides funding to Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina to address cogongrass. Cogongrass management falls outside the APHIS core mission of protecting U.S. agricultural health and is already supported by the U.S. Forest Service. Accordingly, APHIS proposes to eliminate this funding.

B) A decrease of $750,000 and 0 FTE to eliminate funding for Roseau cane.

Roseau cane is an important grass species in wetland areas of the lower Mississippi Delta in Louisiana. The plant's root system provides wildlife habitat, protects the interior from storm surges, and protects riverbanks from erosion, which impacts the Mississippi River navigation channel. APHIS provides funding through cooperative agreements with Louisiana State University and the Agricultural Research Service to conduct long-term, multi-disciplinary work determining what factors are causing the Roseau cane decline. While Roseau cane is an important grass species in the lower Mississippi Delta and helps protect the Mississippi River navigation channel, it falls outside APHIS' core mission of protecting U.S. agricultural health. Accordingly, APHIS proposes to eliminate this funding.

C) A decrease of $474,000 and 0 FTE to reduce funding for imported fire ants.

Imported fire ants (IFA) infest more than 374 million acres in Puerto Rico and 14 States (Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia) which are all under a partial or full State quarantine. It is not possible to prevent IFA's natural spread. Current Federal regulations are designed to prevent long-distance spread of IFA through regulated items such as nursery stock. In 2025, APHIS completed a review of federal program functions, and state and industry practices related to IFA. Based on program maturity, economic estimates, IFA spread estimates, the availability of safeguarding tools, current industry practices, and evaluation of key program performance measures, APHIS is preparing to propose a change in the regulatory status for IFA from quarantine to non-quarantine in the continental United States. APHIS proposes to reduce funding for this program as it implements the shift in regulatory strategy and reduces activities. APHIS will use the remaining funding to support State and industry in a transition period facilitating the move from a Federal regulatory program to State-led efforts.

(5) Specialty Crop Pests: An increase of $3,339,000 ($214,000,000 and 796 FTE available in 2026).

The Specialty Crop Pests (SCP) program protects U.S. farmers and producers of fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops from adverse impacts associated with invasive pests, such as crop damage or threats to international trade and interstate commerce. APHIS works in coordination with State, Tribal, university, and industry partners to prevent or mitigate impacts from invasive pests of Federal regulatory significance. These efforts promote the ability of U.S. farmers and producers to export their products; prevent damage to specialty crop production; protect natural resources, including forests and residential landscapes; and contribute to global food security. Specialty crops are of high value and are grown in all 50 States. APHIS' SCP program directly protected specialty crop production worth more than $12 million in calendar year 2024 and indirectly protected additional specialty crop production valued at $7.4 billion by preventing the spread of these damaging pests and diseases to new areas (APHIS internal analysis based on National Agricultural Statistics Service data). APHIS is currently using SCP resources to address the following pests and diseases: exotic fruit flies, a variety of citrus pests and diseases, pale cyst nematode (PCN), navel orangeworm (NOW), light brown apple moth, European grapevine moth (EGVM), glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), *Phytophtora ramorum*, and spotted lanternfly (SLF), among others.

The SCP program partners with affected industries, States, Tribes, academic institutions, and other Federal agencies to deliver domestic programs. Additionally, the program works with its

counterparts in foreign countries to address pest risks offshore. For example, the SCP program works with Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize to mitigate the risk of exotic fruit flies entering the United States. The program has kept the United States free of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) and Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly) for many years by conducting preventive releases of sterile insects to disrupt normal population growth in at-risk areas; detecting and responding to outbreaks when they occur; maintaining a barrier against the natural spread of the Medfly in Mexico and Central America; and developing advanced methods for survey and control. Medfly has a host list that includes 300 cultivated and wild fruits. The Mexfly also has a wide-ranging host list and presents a particular threat to the Texas citrus industry due to its proximity to infested areas in Mexico. Increasingly, tephritid fruit flies of the genus Bactrocera pose a threat, with several outbreaks of the Oriental fruit fly (the most commonly intercepted *Bactrocera* species in the United States) over the past decade. APHIS and cooperators maintain 140,000 fruit fly traps in vulnerable areas of the United States to ensure that such introductions of exotic fruit flies are quickly detected, enabling fast and effective response efforts. In 2025, the program detected and responded to four new outbreaks in California and ten in Texas. Without the program's efforts to detect and eradicate these outbreaks when they occur, many important crops would become impossible to grow due to fruit fly infestations. APHIS will continue activities to prevent, detect and respond to any outbreaks that occur in 2027.

Overall, base program funding supports salaries and benefits, cooperative agreements, as well as other normal operating expenses such as supplies, equipment, and rent, to support program activities.

A) An increase of $3,339,000 and 0 FTE for fruit fly exclusion and detection activities.

APHIS mitigates the risk of exotic fruit flies through a combination of early detection, rapid response to outbreaks, and prevention of fruit fly establishment through measures such as the continual release of sterile insects that mate with wild flies and prevent normal population growth as well as international activities in Mexico and Central America aimed at stopping the natural, northward spread of Medfly and Mexfly. The program has domestic operations in Texas, California, Florida, and New York and detection networks in other States with environments and host material suitable for fruit flies, and international operations in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico. APHIS suppresses fruit fly populations in these countries to reduce pressure on the United States and has sterile fruit fly production facilities that provide sterile insects for U.S. and international operations. In Guatemala, the program produces more than 1 billion sterile flies per week for release in the United States and locally in the program area. This large program continues to face both cost increases and heightened risks. APHIS continues to address outbreaks in California, Texas, and internationally in Guatemala and Mexico that pose significant threats to U.S. agriculture without action to prevent northward movement. This funding will support increasing costs and activities in the domestic program, including addressing higher risks that have led to the continuing outbreaks in Texas and California. Without additional funding, the program will have to reduce surveillance and sterile insect release, resulting in increased incursions of the pest, a higher risk of outbreaks, and delayed detection, which would allow them to grow larger and more expensive to control. The timing of APHIS' response is critical to prevent outbreaks and protect U.S. specialty crops and the livelihoods of producers and communities.

(6) Wildlife Damage Management program: An increase of $3,477,000 ($126,227,000 and 628 FTE available in 2026).

The Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program resolves human/wildlife conflicts and protects agriculture, human health and safety, personal property, and natural resources from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases in the United States. This program protects livestock from predators, manages damage from invasive species, such as feral swine and brown tree snakes; conducts a national rabies management program; and manages damage, conflicts, and diseases caused by various wildlife species, such as beavers, double-crested cormorants, and other migratory birds. APHIS conducts these activities under the authority of the Animal Damage

Control Act, which allows the Agency to control mammals and birds that are a nuisance or serve as reservoirs for zoonotic diseases. These activities benefit farmers, ranchers, other private landowners, businesses, and Federal, State, county, and city government offices. APHIS carries these activities out with appropriated funding the Agency receives as well as funding from Federal, State, and local cooperators.

APHIS protects resources and safeguards human health and safety from wildlife damage by providing both technical and direct control assistance upon request. For example, the Agency will provide assistance if a rancher is experiencing predators killing their cattle and sheep, or if a farmer is having trouble with fish-eating birds damaging their catfish and other aquaculture. This assistance could include providing advice, information, recommendations, and materials (and in some cases the necessary equipment) to the producer, farmer, or rancher to resolve the wildlife-caused damage themselves. APHIS maintains specially trained staff around the nation to provide direct control assistance, which can be necessary when the problem cannot be resolved through technical assistance alone. APHIS implements integrated approaches, consisting of multiple and varied methods, to protect resources from wildlife damage.

APHIS' wildlife disease biologists provide technical assistance, conduct surveillance, and actively assist in the monitoring of wildlife diseases, pathogens, and syndromes, as well as collaborate with domestic and international academic and research institutions regarding wildlife disease surveillance. Ongoing surveillance of avian influenza in wild bird populations and diseases in feral swine is critical to manage and determine threats to the U.S. poultry and swine industries.

Overall, base funding for the WDM program currently supports salary and benefits, supplies, and equipment, as well as other normal operating expenses such, ren, security, and travel, to conduct program activities.

A) An increase of $3,477,000 and 0 FTE for the National Rabies Management Program.

APHIS' National Rabies Management Program controls and eliminates rabies virus variants in terrestrial carnivore populations using oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits. APHIS is the lead Federal agency, working cooperatively with Federal, State, universities, and other partners to prevent the spread and reduce the prevalence of rabies in specific wildlife populations. Each year, APHIS and cooperators distribute ORV baits to immunize target wildlife populations within control zones to prevent rabies spread. When a breach in an ORV zone occurs, APHIS and its partners respond to prevent the spread into new areas and to eliminate the local outbreak. When this occurs, APHIS increases ORV bait density and distribution for three consecutive years to restore the integrity of the ORV zone preventing spread. APHIS has been able to support breaches in recent years, however, APHIS is experiencing increased operating costs (e.g., bait, aircraft, fuel), depletion of the ORV bait stockpile, and greater occurrences of rabies cases beyond ORV zones making it difficult to operate at the current funding level. With this additional investment, APHIS will be able to cover increased operating costs and maintain a sufficient stockpile of ORV baits, ensuring rapid response to rabies cases and management of the ORV zone.

(7) Agriculture Import/Export: An increase of $250,000 ($18,500,000 and 81 FTE available in 2026).

APHIS works with other Federal agencies, States, foreign governments, industry, and academia to protect U.S. agriculture while facilitating the safe trade of animals and animal products. APHIS' animal health experts ensure that U.S. import requirements safeguard U.S. livestock health, and they negotiate requirements for the worldwide export of U.S. animals and animal products. These requirements are based on international standards, sound scientific principles, and fair-trading practices for animals and animal products. In addition, APHIS sets quarantine, testing, and other requirements under which animals and animal products can be imported or exported. The requirements help ensure that global markets can be accessed, expanded, or maintained with little or no risk to U.S. animal production and human health. APHIS also outlines activities to

support aquatic livestock imports and exports through the development of the Aquaculture Business Plan and the National Aquaculture Health Protection and Inspection Act.

In addition, APHIS conducts activities related to the Lacey Act, which prohibits the importation of any plants, with limited exceptions, that are taken or traded in violation of domestic or international laws. The Act requires a declaration for imported shipments of most plants or plant products. A 2016 study by the United Nations Environmental Programme and Interpol estimated the value of illegal logging, including processing, to be between $50 to $152 billion dollars, or 10 to 30 percent of the global wood trade. The Lacey Act, as amended, is designed to help combat illegal logging by encouraging importers to research their supply chains and be aware of the laws governing products they purchase in other countries. APHIS' role is to evaluate and implement regulations, provide guidance to importers regarding the declaration, perform compliance checks, provide enforcement agencies with declaration information to assist their investigations, and maintain declaration records.

Overall, base funding for the Agriculture Import/Export program currently supports salaries and benefits of personnel, contracts, and agreements, as well as other normal operating costs such as travel, supplies, rent, and utilities to support program activities.

A) An increase of $250,000 and 0 FTE to evaluate risk for importation and exportation of agricultural products.

APHIS requests to restore $250,000 to facilitate imports and conduct risk assessments for countries that wish to export animals and/or animal products to the United States. APHIS sets quarantine, testing, and other requirements under which animals and animal products can be imported. These requirements help ensure that global markets can be accessed, expanded, or maintained with little or no risk to U.S. animal production and human health. The increase in foreign animal diseases around the globe has resulted in additional risk assessment and import evaluations for animals and animal products. Additional funding for import risk assessments will allow APHIS to address the increased number of required risk assessments and more quickly evaluate the animal health status of foreign regions to ensure appropriate import conditions are met and to facilitate safe trade.

(8) Rent and DHS Security Payments: A decrease of $744,000 ($40,000,000 available in 2026).

APHIS personnel are in every State working to carry out our mission and the Rent and DHS Security Payments program assists the Agency in strategically managing the payment portfolio of approximately 208 General Services Administration (GSA) leases and DHS security payments, as well as other leased, owned, and agreement funded facilities. APHIS continually identifies opportunities to consolidate, reduce, and/or transform spaces to manage space as effectively and efficiently as possible. Without funding for rent and security payments, APHIS would have to cover these costs by reducing program activities, decreasing levels of service, and diverting fiscal resources from other appropriated line items.

In 2027, the program will continue to ensure mission operations while effectively managing its space portfolio. Overall, base funding for the program currently maintains rent payments and security agreements in support of program activities.

A) A decrease of $744,000 for National Security Related Expenses being transferred to the Office of Homeland Security.

The decrease in funds of $744,000 for National Security Related Expenses, being realigned to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), will enhance efficiency and effectiveness within USDA. This strategic realignment will centralize resources under OHS, which provides leadership in national security through policy development, emergency preparedness and response initiatives, and threat mitigation coordination. Consolidating the budget under OHS eliminates redundancies, ensures more coordinated resource allocation, and improves the execution of

departmental security policies, ultimately bolstering the USDA's resilience and readiness without compromising overall security.

(9) Congressionally Directed Spending: A decrease of $11,384,000 ($11,384,000 available in 2026).

The 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided APHIS with funding to support nine Congressionally Directed Spending projects across eight States. Specifically, these projects include rural veterinary care in Alaska, monitoring ticks and tick-borne pathogens in Connecticut; upgrading pathological incinerator infrastructure in Georgia; enhancing lab testing capacity at the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory; fish-eating bird control efforts in Mississippi; developing innovative weed control for crops in New Mexico, treating invasive aquatic plants in Rhode Island; eradication efforts for Asian long-horned beetle and equipment and teaching aid for food and equine clinical laboratories in South Carolina. APHIS proposes to eliminate this funding in 2027 since it either supports work that is already being conducted using other appropriated line items or other funding sources, or supports work that is outside the APHIS mission.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Summary of Proposed Legislation Package 1

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

New World Screwworm

Current legislative authority to be amended: Section 10409A of the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 8308a(c)).

This proposal requests a legislative change to the Animal Health Protection Act to clarify that sterile new world screwworms are considered a veterinary countermeasure as defined under the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank. This would allow funding to be used to support sterile new world screwworm production and release to prevent the spread of this devastating pest which would have significant negative impacts to animal agriculture should it enter the United States.

Legislative Language Requested (new language underscored):

(c) National Animal Vaccine Bank

(1) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish a national animal vaccine and veterinary countermeasures bank (to be known as the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank and referred to in this subsection as the "Vaccine Bank") to benefit the domestic interests of the United States.

(2) Elements of Vaccine Bank

Through the Vaccine Bank, the Secretary shall—

(A) maintain sufficient quantities of vaccines and veterinary countermeasures (including pest eradication tools such as sterile insects) to appropriately and rapidly respond to the most damaging animal diseases and pests of livestock affecting or with potential to affect human health or the economy of the United States; and

(B) leverage, when appropriate, the mechanisms and infrastructure that have been developed for the management, storage, and distribution of the National Veterinary Stockpile.

(3) Priority for response to foot and mouth disease

The Secretary shall prioritize the acquisition and maintenance of sufficient quantities of foot and mouth disease vaccine and accompanying diagnostic products for the Vaccine Bank. As part of such

prioritization, the Secretary may offer to enter into one or more contracts with one or more entities that are capable of producing foot and mouth disease vaccine and that have surge production capacity of the vaccine.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table APHIS-9. Discretionary Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2024 Actual	FTE	2025 Actual	FTE	2026 Estimated	FTE	2027 Estimated	FTE
Alabama	$12,590	38	$8,025	41	$10,000	43	$7,700	42
Alaska	1,296	4	1,121	4	1,200	5	1,000	4
Arizona	13,892	78	73,680	82	65,000	82	10,500	78
Arkansas	7,864	25	8,890	29	8,000	29	4,500	30
California	209,144	139	271,819	126	250,000	126	74,000	110
Colorado	130,498	364	85,550	335	90,000	340	95,008	345
Connecticut	2,692	14	2,530	16	2,600	16	2,500	16
Delaware	1,610	8	7,734	11	5,000	11	2,000	9
District of Columbia	26,597	66	48,503	66	43,000	66	39,256	60
Florida	46,837	229	48,548	247	50,000	255	47,900	250
Georgia	12,236	62	25,474	71	20,000	70	18,000	70
Guam	477	1	632	5	500	5	500	5
Hawaii	27,899	281	30,381	269	30,000	270	30,000	270
Idaho	8,774	56	9,512	62	10,000	62	7,000	62
Illinois	5,131	30	12,978	37	12,000	37	5,000	37
Indiana	5,722	23	68,802	28	50,000	28	6,000	28
Iowa	192,108	377	200,110	338	195,000	350	87,000	320
Kansas	45,522	76	19,114	75	25,000	76	19,900	75
Kentucky	5,669	27	6,514	34	6,500	34	5,900	34
Louisiana	7,295	34	6,751	41	7,000	41	5,900	41
Maine	1,654	7	2,240	12	2,200	12	2,000	12
Maryland	226,465	778	242,559	506	241,122	674	177,000	600
Massachusetts	15,998	83	20,838	97	20,000	97	14,000	97
Michigan	111,414	66	20,547	59	40,000	60	8,900	60
Minnesota	151,953	212	46,872	176	40,000	176	40,000	176
Mississippi	12,992	40	12,526	44	13,000	44	13,000	44
Missouri	17,786	67	57,086	73	40,000	73	20,000	73
Montana	12,261	46	9,539	49	10,000	50	10,000	50
Nebraska	4,248	18	6,775	22	7,000	22	5,000	22
Nevada	3,760	21	4,216	24	4,500	24	4,000	24
New Hampshire	20,575	24	23,044	20	22,000	24	21,000	20
New Jersey	5,481	32	6,886	36	7,000	36	3,800	36
New Mexico	7,718	35	7,870	42	8,000	42	5,400	42
New York	39,713	141	45,220	136	40,000	136	31,500	136
North Carolina	54,159	185	81,578	220	65,000	200	46,000	184
North Dakota	6,248	14	6,110	21	6,400	21	5,000	21
Ohio	108,828	92	143,573	88	150,000	100	49,500	99
Oklahoma	6,892	40	13,659	46	10,000	45	9,000	45
Oregon	11,672	24	7,638	26	8,000	26	7,000	26
Pennsylvania	19,282	73	33,939	78	30,000	78	18,000	80
Puerto Rico	16,664	143	29,344	167	17,000	143	15,000	145
Rhode Island	3,162	5	800	4	2,000	4	1,000	4
South Carolina	23,629	43	14,808	50	20,000	50	15,000	48
South Dakota	50,446	22	34,864	17	35,000	19	4,000	20
Tennessee	9,989	48	8,538	48	10,000	48	8,110	48
Texas	99,706	363	117,943	387	950,000	550	216,617	451
Utah	13,164	37	29,642	38	15,000	39	17,500	38
Vermont	1,680	8	2,572	8	2,500	8	2,100	8
Virgin Islands	664	5	674	3	675	3	500	4
Virginia	19,657	71	20,608	98	21,000	98	17,500	89
Washington	8,410	35	15,679	43	16,000	43	10,020	40
West Virginia	3,220	19	3,777	21	3,800	21	2,900	20
Wisconsin	14,088	27	10,158	34	11,000	34	7,900	32
Wyoming	5,308	27	5,484	28	5,500	28	4,000	28
Other Countries								
Austria	645	-	1,032	1	1,000	1	890	1
Belgium	2,058	3	2,480	3	2,400	3	2,400	3
Belize	223	-	167	-	167	-	170	-
Bolivia	194	1	182	-	182	-	180	-
Brazil	658	2	738	2	738	2	750	2
Canada	39	-	289	-	289	-	250	-
Chile	245	-	113	-	113	-	115	-
China	1,508	2	1,598	3	1,500	3	900	3
Colombia	694	1	616	1	600	1	600	1
Costa Rica	235	-	242	-	242		235	-

State/Territory/Country	2024 Actual	FTE	2025 Actual	FTE	2026 Estimated	FTE	2027 Estimated	FTE
Dominican Republic	11,019	7	1,790	4	1,800	4	900	4
Egypt	912	1	616	1	616	1	600	1
France	369	1	400	1	400	1	400	1
Germany	108	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	33,448	4	39,137	4	40,000	4	25,000	4
Haiti	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
India	749	1	649	1	650	1	650	1
Italy	775	1	836	2	836	2	800	2
Japan	1,428	3	1,674	4	1,700	4	1,600	4
Kenya	449	1	403	1	403	1	400	1
Mexico	12,230	5	32,772	5	10,000	5	10,000	5
Monaco	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Panama	69,292	7	86,294	6	70,000	6	17,000	6
Peru	797	1	851	2	851	2	850	2
Philippines	851	2	920	2	920	2	900	2
Portugal	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	511	1	698	2	698	2	600	2
South Africa	925	2	878	2	878	2	850	2
South Korea	661	1	446	-	446	-	450	-
Switzerland	264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taiwan	463	1	344	-	344	-	350	-
Thailand	1,092	2	1,153	2	1,153	2	1,110	2
Trinidad and Tobago	242	-	265	-	265	-	242	-
United Kingdom	354	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vietnam	1,162	2	801	2	800	2	785	2
Distribution Unknown	-2,031	-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations	2,015,317	4,833	2,202,663	4,689	2,894,488	5,025	1,351,791	4,756
Lapsing Balances	1,745	442	7,088	667	-	111	-	111
Rescinded Balances	-5,000	-	-5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	1,342,765	784	1,665,013	979	326,676	859	121,891	1,008
Total, Available	3,354,828	6,059	3,874,764	6,335	3,221,164	5,995	1,473,682	5,875

Table APHIS-10. Mandatory Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/ Country	2024 Actual	FTE	2025 Actual	FTE	2026 Estimated	FTE	2027 Estimated	FTE
Alabama	$1,658	6	$604	2	$3,875	4	$3,875	4
Alaska	174	-	167	1	2,570	1	2,570	1
Arizona	4,270	17	3,513	19	7,000	20	7,000	20
Arkansas	1,241	5	820	2	4,275	4	4,275	4
California	42,676	112	40,709	107	45,400	107	55,400	110
Colorado	19,495	43	16,029	56	18,650	56	18,650	56
Connecticut	659	3	618	4	3,270	4	3,270	4
Delaware	2,324	9	1,203	7	3,850	7	3,850	7
District of Columbia	16,344	18	17,730	28	16,000	28	16,000	28
Florida	29,746	162	24,250	152	31,525	160	35,525	165
Georgia	10,917	64	17,467	69	22,025	72	22,025	72
Guam	1,610	3	1,084	2	1,200	2	1,200	2
Hawaii	7,005	24	4,218	19	33,025	22	11,025	20
Idaho	2,367	9	2,807	4	5,650	4	5,650	4
Illinois	2,367	14	2,473	17	5,150	17	5,150	17
Indiana	1,649	2	1,030	2	3,750	2	3,750	2
Iowa	10,936	9	12,900	22	15,400	20	15,400	20
Kansas	1,099	3	1,085	5	3,750	5	3,750	5
Kentucky	1,443	3	1,298	3	3,950	3	3,950	3
Louisiana	1,633	11	1,212	9	4,575	11	4,575	11
Maine	667	1	648	2	3,200	2	3,200	2
Maryland	75,601	274	87,548	285	95,569	305	58,738	296
Massachusetts	3,515	16	7,977	17	10,950	17	10,950	17
Michigan	2,512	14	1,877	11	4,650	11	4,650	11
Minnesota	10,251	8	6,503	39	9,650	35	9,650	35
Mississippi	1,471	3	1,199	2	4,225	4	4,225	4
Missouri	1,876	5	1,694	9	4,725	10	4,725	10
Montana	572	2	898	2	3,300	2	3,300	2
Nebraska	679	4	650	4	3,050	4	3,050	4
Nevada	699	3	1,287	3	3,400	3	3,400	3
New Hampshire	134	0	211	1	2,600	1	2,600	1
New Jersey	6,065	25	4,135	23	6,850	23	6,850	23
New Mexico	1,302	4	283	2	3,000	2	3,000	2
New York	16,396	54	17,348	45	20,400	47	24,400	48
North Carolina	26,197	98	30,203	77	34,025	81	34,025	81
North Dakota	413	2	361	2	2,800	2	2,800	2
Ohio	3,463	8	3,718	7	6,650	7	6,650	7

State/Territory/ Country	2024 Actual	FTE	2025 Actual	FTE	2026 Estimated	FTE	2027 Estimated	FTE
Oklahoma	1,418	3	1,157	2	4,225	4	4,225	4
Oregon	2,673	6	2,108	4	4,850	4	4,850	4
Pennsylvania	5,961	24	5,810	21	9,450	21	9,450	21
Puerto Rico	7,617	65	2,967	56	4,750	56	4,750	56
Rhode Island	380	0	170	-	2,570	-	2,570	-
South Carolina	2,804	14	3,609	8	6,875	11	6,875	11
South Dakota	114	1	101	1	2,510	1	2,510	1
Tennessee	1,993	3	950	4	3,900	4	3,900	4
Texas	17,720	86	17,295	89	22,425	93	31,425	94
Utah	526	2	636	2	3,050	2	3,050	2
Vermont	1,025	3	620	3	3,100	3	3,100	3
Virgin Islands	189	1	168	2	170	2	170	2
Virginia	20,549	19	12,656	24	22,900	25	29,900	26
Washington	9,505	32	7,925	25	10,650	25	10,650	25
West Virginia	1,625	6	1,185	4	3,850	4	3,850	4
Wisconsin	1,998	5	1,978	8	4,650	8	4,650	8
Wyoming	314	1	217	2	2,650	2	2,650	2
Other Countries								
Australia	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	3	-	4	3	3	-	3	-
Belgium	16	-	14	-	14	-	14	-
Brazil	71	-	92	-	92	-	92	-
Canada	108	-	75	-	75	-	75	-
Chile	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	167	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costa Rica	605	-	75	-	75	-	75	-
Croatia	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	150	-	165	-	165	-	165	-
Egypt	4	-	3	-	3	-	3	-
France	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	41	-	89	-	89	-	89	-
Italy	-	-	3	-	3	-	3	-
Japan	283	-	275	-	275	-	275	-
Kenya	-	-	5	-	5	-	5	-
Mexico	1,486	-	1,233	-	1,233	-	1,233	-
Morocco	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru	141	-	144	-	144	-	144	-
Senegal	6	-	13	-	13	-	13	-
South Africa	3	-	3	-	3	-	3	-
South Korea	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations	391,058	1,308	379,502	1,316	568,701	1,370	543,870	1,370
Lapsing Balances	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY	255,334	474	406,542	576	504,575	624	595,426	672
Total, Available	646,392	1,782	786,144	1,892	1,073,276	1,994	1,139,296	2,042

OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Table APHIS-11. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$101,236	$54,239	$50,000	$48,000
	Personnel Compensation, Field	338,922	397,756	430,000	412,800
11	Total personnel compensation	440,158	451,995	480,000	460,800
12	Personal benefits	174,409	186,596	197,000	189,120
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	354	346	500	500
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	614,921	638,937	677,500	650,420
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	31,463	24,878	27,000	25,000
22.0	Transportation of things	3,214	2,891	3,000	2,000
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	39,662	36,008	36,000	39,000
23.2	Rental payments to others	9,637	10,478	10,000	10,000
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	5,130	5,866	5,800	5,800
24.0	Printing and reproduction	514	562	500	500
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	365,123	398,352	400,000	228,568
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	75,822	99,567	100,000	45,000
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	143,073	161,918	900,000	225,953
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	799	380	500	500
25.5	Research and development contracts	3,677	5,885	6,000	6,000
25.6	Medical care	93	23	50	50
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	39,299	52,723	45,000	40,000

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
25.8	Subsistence and support of persons	-	-46	-	-
26.0	Supplies and materials	48,968	49,516	49,000	49,000
31.0	Equipment	21,798	23,670	23,000	23,000
32.0	Land and structures	427	932	1,000	1,000
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	11,228	-56	-	-
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	600,467	690,175	610,138	-
43.0	Interest and Dividends	4	-1	-	-
44.0	Refunds	-	5	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	1,400,396	1,563,726	2,216,988	701,371
99.9	Total, new obligations	2,015,317	2,202,663	2,894,488	1,351,791
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$7,669	$7,934	$8,000	$8,000
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$205,749	$231,126	$233,437	$233,437
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$102,490	$97,542	$98,517	$98,517
	Average Grade, GS Position	10.9	10.2	10.1	10.1

Table APHIS-12. Classification by Objects – Mandatory Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$32,525	$18,395	$18,000	$18,000
	Personnel Compensation, Field	108,888	134,900	144,500	144,500
11	Total personnel compensation	141,413	153,295	162,500	162,500
12	Personal benefits	54,359	52,664	55,000	55,000
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	95	83	100	100
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	195,867	206,042	217,600	217,600
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	5,346	3,974	4,200	3,000
22.0	Transportation of things	325	348	350	350
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	6,092	6,002	6,000	5,000
23.2	Rental payments to others	10,539	8,096	8,000	8,000
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	4,563	2,428	3,500	3,000
24.0	Printing and reproduction	70	35	35	34
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	99,430	92,698	241,886	241,886
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	17,186	13,892	23,000	17,000
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	28,335	30,001	37,000	25,000
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	464	43	100	-
25.5	Research and development contracts	1	-	-	-
25.6	Medical care	15	30	30	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	7,900	6,740	7,000	7,000
25.8	Subsistence and support of persons	335	-	-	-
26.0	Supplies and materials	4,400	3,248	5,000	4,000
31.0	Equipment	10,006	1,181	10,000	8,000
32.0	Land and structures	106	4,704	5,000	4,000
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	77	36	-	-
43.0	Interest and Dividends	-	4	-	-
44.0	Refunds	-	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	195,191	173,460	351,101	326,270
99.9	Total, new obligations	391,058	379,502	568,701	543,870
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$960	$1,088	$1,000	$1,000
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$ -	$217,025	$219,195	$219,195
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$ -	$107,016	$108,086	$108,086
	Average Grade, GS Position	0.0	11.2	11.2	11.20

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

SAFEGUARDING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE

Current Activities

American agriculture faces many threats from foreign and domestic pests and diseases which have the potential to negatively impact animal and plant agricultural production, trade, and the economy. APHIS monitors and responds to potential diseases of livestock and wildlife, invasive species, and conflicts between humans and wildlife as it strives to assure its stakeholders that it is on guard against the introduction or re-emergence of animal and plant pests and diseases that could limit agricultural production.

When a pest or disease is detected in the United States, APHIS works cooperatively with Federal, State, Tribal and industry partners to conduct animal and plant health monitoring programs to rapidly diagnose them and determine if there is a need to establish new pest or disease management programs. APHIS, in conjunction with States, Tribes, industry, and other stakeholders, protects American agriculture by eradicating harmful pests and diseases or, where eradication is not feasible, by minimizing their economic impact. The Agency monitors endemic pests and diseases through surveys to detect their location and through inspection to prevent their spread into non-infested parts of the country. APHIS conducts diagnostic laboratory activities that support the Agency's veterinary disease prevention, detection, control, and eradication programs. The Agency also provides and directs technology development to support plant protection programs and cooperators at the State, national, and international levels. APHIS also develops methods to control animals and pests that are detrimental to agriculture, wildlife, and public safety.

The Agency maintains a cadre of trained professionals prepared to respond immediately to potential animal and plant health emergencies. Program personnel investigate reports of suspected exotic pests and diseases and take emergency action if necessary. To facilitate these efforts, APHIS develops pathway studies and thoroughly investigates the progression of outbreaks to determine the origin of animal and plant pests and diseases. APHIS also actively engages State, Tribal, and local governments, and industries to advance their emergency preparedness and response capabilities. APHIS conducts operations to ensure the humane care and treatment of vulnerable animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. The Agency also balances a regulatory system that safeguards agriculture while fostering innovative research and development in the field of biotechnology.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Animal Health:

1. Animal Health Technical Services

APHIS' Animal Health Technical Services develops, enhances, and maintains tools for acquiring and managing information vital for improving global market access for U.S. livestock and animal products. Incorporating national surveillance standards into data management applications allows the program to compile animal health information nationally, thus leveraging the work of animal health professionals nationwide to meet local, State, and national veterinary health objectives. The National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) trains private veterinarians to help producers meet export requirements and disease program standards. Ultimately, this allows U.S. animals and animal products to compete in the global economy.

Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)

The national ADT framework enables Federal, State, Tribal, and private animal health professionals to collaborate to identify diseased animals, quickly trace their movements, and control disease spread to protect the livestock industry, whose production value was approximately $160 billion in 2024 (National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA). The ADT framework enables animal health officials to trace an animal from the location of official identification to the animal's last location, which is often the termination point or slaughter plant. Knowing the location of diseased and at-risk animals helps preserve animal health, enables a rapid response during animal disease events, reduces illness and mortality during outbreaks, and lowers costs for producers, consumers, and the government. This

system also assures our trading partners that States and USDA can rapidly contain an animal disease event. Each year, APHIS provides cooperative agreement funds to States, tribes, and territories to help them establish and maintain support for ADT activities. Currently all cooperators receiving program funds have approved ADT strategic plans in place with APHIS.

The ADT program continues to support state and tribal partners in advancing their animal disease traceability systems. From 2013 to 2023, APHIS measured the success of the ADT program by conducting trace exercises that assess a cooperator's ability to properly record and retrieve documents pertaining to official livestock identification and interstate movement. Cooperators demonstrated tremendous improvement in their tracing abilities and now most cooperators are able to complete each trace exercise in less than or equal to one hour. Participants in these exercises cite the increased use of electronic record keeping processes, electronic identification tags, and electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection applications as some of the main reasons for the reduction in time to complete the exercise. The ADT program will continue to assess options for newer ways to use trace exercises to uncover gaps in the current trace-back or trace-forward system.

To further strengthen traceability and accelerate data capture, APHIS has advanced its efforts to expand electronic identification (EID) tags in cattle and bison. On April 26, 2024, APHIS published a final rule (9 CFR Part 86) that requires official eartags to be visually and electronically readable for the interstate movement of certain cattle and bison. Previously, eartags used as official animal ID only had to be visually readable. This rule was implemented on November 5, 2024. The rule does not discontinue the use of other means of official ID, if agreed on between the shipping state and the receiving state or tribal animal health authority. The EID tags speed information capture and sharing. In 2025, APHIS offered approximately 11 million official EID tags to States at no cost. As of October 1st, 2025, approximately 39 million EID tags have been provided as an alternative to visual metal ID since distribution began in 2020.

Information Management

APHIS provides information management systems to States and Tribal Nations to support their traceability plans and broader animal health activities. APHIS routinely evaluates existing data systems and applications to determine whether they should be enhanced or replaced. In 2025, APHIS continued modernization efforts for the Animal Disease Traceability Information System (ADTIS). ADTIS is used to maintain records of official identification devices and other information associated with animal ID data. The ADTIS contains two major components: Premises Management and Animal Identification Management System (AIMS). Premises Management is a free application offered to States to manage premises identification activities. AIMS is designed to facilitate order and delivery of physical animal identification devices to premises locations and to maintain other animal events such as animal movements. AIMS underwent a modernization effort that is scheduled for release in 2026.

The APHIS Veterinary Services Trade Systems Modernization project began in 2024. The project will build a new system that replaces two legacy systems, Veterinary Services Process Streamlining and Veterinary Export Health Certificate System, along with six other processes that are yet to be in a web-based application. The new system will improve service delivery, boost efficiency, and enhance user experience by consolidating 14 business processes into a single application. The processes include live animal and animal products import and export activities, facility inspections and certificates, veterinary accreditation, equine infectious anemia testing, and Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for movement of animals within the country. The Agency estimates that it will be a 5-year effort to address all 14 business processes.

National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP)

Approximately 67,860 highly trained accredited veterinarians voluntarily participate in the NVAP. Accreditation enables veterinarians in private practice, academia, industry, the military, and other sectors to serve as the first line of defense for reportable domestic and foreign animal diseases. When symptoms of a suspected foreign animal disease are reported, accredited veterinarians initiate the response, with Federal and State animal health officials conducting or facilitating diagnostics, quarantine, and other control measures to safeguard animal and human health.

Accredited veterinarians also issue official animal health certifications, conduct disease testing, and implement traceability measures required for the intrastate, interstate, and international movement of animals. To maintain accreditation, participants must complete mandatory training and renew their credentials every three years. This training covers current topics in animal disease surveillance, prevention, zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, animal welfare, and disaster preparedness.

APHIS currently offers 28 web-based supplemental training modules for accredited veterinarians and veterinary students. Since 2011, accredited veterinarians have completed over 1 million hours of online training modules, in addition to taking modules given at veterinary conferences nationwide.

2. Aquatic Animal Health

The Aquatic Animal Health program safeguards the health, economic value, and marketability of U.S. farm-raised aquatic animals and natural resources. This program supports commercial producers in domestic and international trade markets, valued at $1.9 billion in 2023 (National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2023 Census of Aquaculture). APHIS advances aquatic livestock health policy through the National Aquaculture Health Plan and Standards (NAHPS), a comprehensive framework for aquatic livestock disease management, monitoring, and certification. The NAHPS affirms USDA's role as the lead Federal authority for U.S. aquaculture health, consistent with other livestock health programs, and outlines a unified Federal vision for a national aquatic animal health plan that encompasses all Federal authorities and ensures a strong domestic infrastructure for supporting and determining aquatic animal health. In 2025, APHIS continued to support the implementation of NAHPS by leading a review in consultation with other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, seeking to update the 2021-23 version. APHIS anticipates that this review will lead to updates by several federal agencies and expects it to be published by the end of 2026.

APHIS paused work in 2025 on codifying uniform aquaculture health standards, entitled the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS). This voluntary, non-regulatory certification program would establish a national, uniform approach for site-specific biosecurity, surveillance, and response plans. To perform outreach and education on aquatic livestock health, APHIS supported a cooperative agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife to create an online aquatic livestock health educational program for veterinarians working with aquatic livestock producers. Topics of the planned modules include available resources, good sample-collection practices, risk pathways for pathogen introduction, and appropriate biosecurity. Also, in 2025, APHIS supported a retrospective review of the Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) Control Program via a cooperative agreement with the University of Maine and Maine Sea Grant. APHIS anticipates results of this review by January 2026.

In 2025, APHIS continued to support international aquaculture trade markets. Through the Registered Aquaculture Export Facility inspection program (RAEF 2.0), APHIS provides a framework to facilitate aquatic livestock exports. This framework enables aquaculture producers to meet biosecurity surveillance necessary to allow producers to compete in interstate and international commerce. APHIS has continued to participate in work to support country-level freedom declarations from select foreign aquatic animal pathogens affecting both fish and mollusk species in commercial production in the United States with the goal of reducing the burden of pre-export testing on aquatic livestock producers. APHIS also began working with state partners to develop a process for verifying regional freedom claims for select pathogens.

3. Avian Health

The Avian Health program protects the U.S. poultry industry, while facilitating agricultural trade in poultry and poultry products. The production value of the U.S. poultry and eggs in 2024 was $70 billion (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service). APHIS' Avian Health program consists of surveillance, prevention, and control of avian diseases; disease threat planning and response; and international avian health activities.

APHIS works to rapidly detect and address endemic, emerging, and foreign disease threats to ensure the continued global competitiveness of the U.S. poultry industry. To identify these threats, the

Agency conducts surveillance in domestic poultry, wild birds, and the live bird marketing system (LBMS). As of September 30, 2025, 25 States had LBMS components participating in APHIS' H5/H7 Avian Influenza (AI) prevention and control program. State cooperators support surveillance and diagnostic activities, and when presumptive positive results are identified, APHIS confirms the presence and strain of AI. These efforts help prevent and controls AI in markets and among producers and distributors supplying those markets. In 2025, APHIS confirmed 36 detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and one detection of H7N3 Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) in the LBMS. During the 2025 HPAI outbreak, 32 live bird markets, 2 live bird market system production flocks, and 2 live bird sales markets (non-slaughter) tested positive for the H5N1 HPAI Clade 2.3.4.4b strain. Notably, there was 1 auction market/live bird sales (non-slaughter) detection of H5N2 LPAI virus in U.S. LBMS during 2025, reflecting the long-term success of the prevention and control program.

Surveillance remains a high priority for the Avian Health program. The program conducted 710,408 commercial AI surveillance tests in the first two quarters of 2025, with full-year data to be finalized after State agreements conclude on March 31, 2026. Additionally, approximately 33,872 tests were conducted for LPAI surveillance in the LBMS and backyard flocks during the first two quarters of 2025. Testing methods included agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID), real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR), antigen capture immunoassay (ACIA), and virus isolation (VI). For rRT-PCR and VI, each test may represent pooled samples from 5 or 11 individual swabs.

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a cooperative Federal-State-industry program administered by APHIS that helps participants guard against disease incursion and enhance the marketability of poultry and poultry products. NPIP has a scientific, thorough, and democratic process for vetting proposed modifications and updating the NPIP. Proposed updates are reviewed and brought to a vote by US poultry and egg industry stakeholders at the NPIP Biennial Conference. This conference is attended by Official State Agencies, dealers, authorized laboratories, and owners of hatcheries and independent flocks. NPIP held its 46th Biennial Conference in August 2024, and nearly 300 stakeholders attended. Of the 56 proposals that were considered, 40 passed. Proposals addressed issues such as the refinement of definitions, compartmentalization changes, avian influenza testing, Pullorum testing requirements for exhibition birds, and consideration of a new Salmonella program for broilers. Successful proposals are routing through the Federal rulemaking process for inclusion into the Final Rule. APHIS is working to publish an interim rule for biosecurity audits for poultry operations affected by HPAI during an outbreak. This rule is intended to validate that premises-specific biosecurity plans are being effectively implemented to increase biosecurity efforts to reduce HPAI spread.

APHIS conducts AI surveillance in commercial poultry under the NPIP H5/H7 LPAI Prevention and Control program. Most of the testing is performed within the NPIP Authorized Laboratory System and/or the NAHLN, but the Agency's National Veterinary Services Laboratories provides reagents for testing and performs confirmation and identification testing of presumptive positive specimens. In 2024, APHIS performed approximately 1.8 million AI surveillance tests through NPIP AI cooperative. Complete 2025 data will be available after the agreements with States conclude on March 31, 2026. Based on tests results available there was no detection of H5/H7 LPAI virus in the U.S. commercial poultry flocks in 2025.

AI circulates in waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species, which allows the viruses to move efficiently along migratory flyways in these birds. Since 2022, thousands of migratory birds died from HPAI infections, often in large congregations, in numerous States. These viruses can infect domestic land-based poultry such as chickens and turkeys. When poultry are infected with H5 or H7 strains of AI virus, the virus can evolve into the more serious disease-causing form, HPAI. HPAI usually causes significant disease and mortality in domestic poultry and sometimes in wild birds. APHIS conducts wild bird surveillance to gain insight into AI viruses in wild populations, and to provide that data to poultry producers and others so they can make informed biosecurity and management decisions. In 2025, the Agency coordinated the collection and laboratory analysis of 40,805 wild bird samples from wild waterfowl in priority watersheds in all four flyways. This total consisted of 35,685 samples from routine targeted surveillance, 4,873 samples from targeted wild bird surveillance around HPAI-

infected dairy and poultry premises, and 247 samples collected in conjunction with Wildlife Biosecurity Assessments. The sample collection from HPAI-infected dairy and poultry premises was funded through HPAI emergency funds, while the sample collections from routine surveillance and the spring enhanced surveillance were funded though the Avian Health line item. As of September 30, 2025, there had been approximately 14,734 wild bird detections across all 50 States and Washington, DC. Genetic sequencing of these samples revealed multiple introductions of HPAI viruses from outside the United States and helped inform whether poultry outbreaks resulted from point source introductions or lateral farm-to-farm spread.

Internationally, APHIS' Foreign Service is strategically located in key countries around the world to project APHIS' safeguarding and marketing mission. APHIS facilitates agricultural trade, works with agricultural officials, monitors agricultural health, and supports efforts in sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting. The Agency works with animal health counterparts to reduce the impact of avian influenza in trade by promoting transparent communications; clarifying animal disease status; and when U.S. poultry markets close, providing relevant data to reopen them while minimizing trade disruption of these products. In addition, APHIS works with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to maintain a coordinated, strategic approach to resolving avian health issues that affect U.S. exports, including using multilateral trade negotiations to leverage for science-based measures for U.S. products. This includes joining with the U.S. delegation to the WTO-SPS Committee and the World Organization of Animal Health to advocate for harmonized standards that protect against disease spread and facilitate safe trade. Further, APHIS coordinates with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations as well as other international organizations to assist with disease prevention, management, and eradication activities in HPAI-affected regions. In addition, APHIS provides a loaned expert to the FAO's Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal Diseases (EMPRES) based in Rome, Italy. The EMPRES program provides assessments, guidance, and resources to prevent disease introductions through enhanced biosecurity, early detection, and rapid response to animal disease outbreaks in countries where the United States would have difficulties placing personnel or responding bilaterally. This approach reduces the threat of disease outbreaks becoming widespread and evolving into pandemics.

4. Cattle Health

The Cattle Health Program protects and improves the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the U.S. cattle industry, whose production was valued at approximately $134 billion (National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2024). The Cattle Health Program works to rapidly detect and respond to diseases that could significantly affect the U.S. cattle and bison population.

APHIS activities in the Cattle Health Program include surveillance, disease prevention, disease investigation, and outbreak response actions. In addition, APHIS maintains regulations, national program standards, and guidelines that direct activities at the Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels. Establishing and maintaining these standards is critical to supporting interstate and international commerce by providing assurances about the health of cattle or bison being moved or traded.

In 2025, APHIS continued to conduct surveillance for foreign, emerging, and endemic diseases, including bovine tuberculosis (TB), brucellosis, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) as well as disease vectors, such as the cattle fever tick (CFT), and new world screwworm (NWS). The Agency conducts surveillance through cattle testing on-farm as well as at slaughter facilities, livestock markets, shows, sales, buying stations (first point testing), and rendering facilities (operations that collect dead, dying, disabled, and diseased animals). APHIS also continued working with Canada and Mexico to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease, NWS, and other cattle diseases. The following are examples of the Agency's efforts to protect cattle health in 2025.

Bovine tuberculosis

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) primarily affects cattle but has the potential to affect other animal species and humans. APHIS' surveillance for bovine TB includes testing live cattle and slaughter surveillance conducted by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. The bovine TB program, initiated in

1917, has significantly decreased the prevalence of the disease in U.S. livestock. Today the prevalence rate in cattle herds is less than 0.001 percent.

The Cattle Health Program has five State bovine TB classifications. Higher disease prevalence results in classifications that have more restrictive movement requirements. The classifications are, in order of least restrictive to most restrictive: accredited free, modified accredited advanced, modified accredited, accreditation preparatory, and non-accredited. Michigan is currently composed of two classification zones: accredited free and modified accredited status. At the end of 2025, 49 States, 2 Territories (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and 1 classification zone in Michigan were TB accredited free.

In 2025, Federally inspected slaughter establishments continued to submit samples for TB testing. Through these slaughter surveillance efforts, the program detected TB in six cattle in 2025. Two cases traced to Mexican origin, two to Texas, one to New Mexico, and one to South Dakota. Of the four affected herds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, two were found from slaughter in 2025, one from slaughter late in 2024 and one through area testing in the Michigan Modified Accredited Zone. One beef herd was depopulated. The other three herds (one beef and two dairy) are being managed under test and remove protocols. Trace investigations are still on-going for these herds, and so far, no additional herds have been identified through these investigations. APHIS uses Commodity Credit Corporation funds (CCC) funds to conduct whole herd tests under investigation, to conduct test-and-remove protocols in accordance with each herd's management plan and pay indemnity for all animals removed from herds under investigation, herds affected with TB herds and from herds with epidemiological links to affected herds.

Bovine brucellosis

Bovine brucellosis is an infectious disease that can cause decreased milk production, weight loss, abortions, infertility, and lameness. These effects can negatively impact on the livelihood of cattle producers and the supply of meat and dairy products. Federal and State brucellosis eradication efforts have resulted in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands being Class-Free since July 2009. The brucellosis Class-Free classification is based on no detections of brucellosis in the cattle herd for 12 months. Class-Free States with brucellosis in wildlife work with APHIS to implement a state brucellosis management plan (BMP). Each BMP defines the basis for the area identified; describes the epidemiologic assessment and surveillance activities to determine if wildlife populations are affected; and describes surveillance and mitigation activities for cattle, bison, and wildlife. Although the United States is considered Class-Free of brucellosis, there continues to be a presence of brucellosis in free-ranging bison and wild elk in the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA), which includes parts of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming and is commonly referred to as the Greater Yellowstone Area.

APHIS provides expertise to land and wildlife management agencies to manage brucellosis in the DSA. In 2025, APHIS detected brucellosis in two herds within the DSA of Wyoming though surveillance testing. As part of the Bison Conservation Transfer Program, APHIS uses an Approved Bison Quarantine Facility located in Montana to quarantine and test bison from Yellowstone National Park, determine their brucellosis disease status, and release them, disease-free, outside the DSA. Bison complete testing between one and 2.5 years to be declared brucellosis-free to be eligible for shipping to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana. Once at Fort Peck, the bison remain for one year and will be retested at 12 months before being moved to other tribes and organizations for conservation purposes. Since 2018, a total of 414 bison have been transferred

In 2025, APHIS tested approximately 323,461 head of cattle under the market cattle identification national slaughter surveillance program, exceeding the annual target goal of 315,000. The Agency, in conjunction with States, tests cattle and domestic bison on farms and ranches prior to movement, private sale, and herd certification issuance for show and exhibition purposes. The number of certified-free herds is steadily declining since all States are considered Class-Free of brucellosis. Agency-accredited veterinarians perform most of the vaccinations and sample collection, and State laboratories test the samples. As of September 30, 2025, the program is still collecting and validating fourth quarter testing and sampling data.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

BSE, widely referred to as "mad cow disease," is a progressive and fatal neurologic disease of cattle. The disease is caused by transmissible abnormal prion protein. BSE is not a contagious disease and therefore is not spread through casual contact between cattle or with other species. BSE detections are separated into 2 distinct categories, classical and atypical. Classical BSE occurs through the consumption of contaminated feed. While classical BSE was identified as a significant threat in the 1990s, most years there are no detections made worldwide. This is a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures on an international scale. Atypical BSE refers to naturally and sporadically occurring forms, which are believed to occur in all bovine populations at a very low rate, and which have only been identified in older bovines when conducting surveillance. APHIS works with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Food and Drug Administration to conduct ongoing BSE surveillance, allowing the United States to maintain BSE Negligible Risk status per the World Organisation for Animal Health's (WOAH) standards to facilitate trade.

The WOAH evaluates countries that submit a request for disease freedom and assigns a points-based risk status for BSE. The BSE surveillance program uses WOAH's weighted surveillance points system, which reflects that the best BSE surveillance program focuses on obtaining quality samples from targeted populations rather than looking at the entire adult cattle population. WOAH's surveillance points system also incorporates a country's history with disease, the implementation and enforcement of cattle feed regulations, and their overall BSE surveillance. In 2025, APHIS launched a revised National BSE Surveillance Plan that transitions from a fixed sample count to a risk-based, point-driven model aligned with updated World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) guidelines. The plan targets 17,000 high-value samples annually, aiming to accumulate 381,000 BSE surveillance points per year and 3 million points over 8 years, ensuring 95% confidence in detecting one BSE case per million cattle. During 2025, the Agency tested 21,782 samples for BSE in cattle, representing 441,790 BSurvE points. This testing is 1.12 times the requirement for negligible risk status countries. APHIS' BSE surveillance program reassures consumers and international trading partners regarding our ability to detect a problem if one should arise. No cases of classical BSE were detected in 2025.

Cattle fever tick

The Federal-State Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program is a partnership between APHIS and the Texas Animal Health Commission. The cattle fever tick (*Boophilus annulatus*) and the southern cattle tick (*B. microplus*) are vectors for spreading babesiosis, also known as cattle, fever. Even when not transmitting this disease, CFT can cause blood loss, damage to hides, and an overall decrease in the condition of livestock. Mortality in cattle without prior exposure to the disease ranges from 70 to 90 percent. The Agency focuses on controlling the spread of tick species that transmit the infectious agent through the inspection of livestock before they leave quarantined areas, surveillance at local markets, inspection of hunter-killed white-tailed deer and other exotic ungulates that can harbor the tick, and horseback river trail patrols to capture stray and smuggled Mexican livestock that may carry ticks into the United States.

The United States remains free of cattle fever. There is a permanent quarantine buffer zone established between Texas and Mexico. Mexican states bordering the United States can introduce tick-infested wildlife or livestock potentially bringing ticks into the United States. Tick eradication activities consist of identifying and quarantining infested premises and treating livestock and wildlife. Approved treatment methods for ticks include dipping or spraying cattle with coumaphos, feeding ivermectin-treated corn to wild deer, and injecting cattle with Doramectin. To release a quarantine area, every infested premise must have all cattle treated for at least nine months, including inspections and treatments every two weeks. In 2025, 36 infested quarantine premises were released, compared to 39 in 2024. In 2025, 463 premises changed quarantine status compared to 362 in 2023. In 2025, APHIS conducted 58,536 individual livestock inspections and treatments throughout South Texas. Additionally, in 2025, the permanent quarantine zone and the free area of Texas contained 64 newly infested quarantined premises, compared to 31 in 2024.

New world screwworm

APHIS cooperates with Panama through the Panama-United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG) to maintain a biological barrier against the northward spread of the new world screwworm (NWS), a devastating pest of livestock that can affect any warm-blooded animal, including people. The program had successfully prevented the movement of NWS beyond the barrier zone at the Panamanian-Colombian border for decades. However, outbreaks occurred in calendar year 2023 in Panama and Costa Rica, likely due to several factors, including weather patterns favorable to the pest, a significant increase in the number of cattle in the barrier zone, and illegal movement of livestock from infected areas to free areas. Development of infrastructure in Darien, the Panamanian province that neighbors Colombia, and movement of people through this formerly remote area also pose challenges for the program.

In 2025, the program continued addressing the unprecedented NWS outbreak, confirming numerous cases throughout Central America and in Mexico. APHIS and COPEG worked with the ministries of agriculture of the affected countries and international organizations including the International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to continue implementing a regional response, including increased sterile insect production and release, increased inspections and treatment of livestock, and outreach to farmers and ranchers to increase awareness of the threat and provide information on how to prevent and treat NWS infections on animals. APHIS and Mexico's National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) developed a joint action plan to eradicate the pest and prevent its movement towards the U.S. border. Using emergency funds transferred to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation, the program-maintained production at approximately 100 million per week (from an average of 20 million per week before the outbreak began). APHIS anticipates it will take several years of intensive efforts with Mexico, other affected countries, OIRSA, and IICA to eradicate the outbreak and prevent further spread. This work is critical to preventing NWS from reestablishing in Central America and spreading to the United States. Keeping the United States free of NWS saves $1.5 billion annually for cattle producers (APHIS internal analysis).

5. Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health

The Equine, Cervid, and Small Ruminant Health (ECSRH) program protects health and improves the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the equine, cervid, sheep, and goat industries. APHIS activities include monitoring, surveillance, investigation, response, and disease prevention and preparedness to address animal health issues. The Agency's monitoring and surveillance activities detect foreign, emerging, zoonotic, and domestic diseases that could substantially impact the economy. APHIS also works with international and domestic trading partners to facilitate safe trade in equine, cervids, and small ruminants and their products and ensure incidents of trade concern are reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). In 2025, the ECSRH Program conducted disease surveillance and/or monitoring for the following diseases: scrapie, bovine tuberculosis (TB), chronic wasting disease (CWD), vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), contagious equine metritis (CEM), equine piroplasmosis (EP), Eastern equine encephalitis, West Nile virus, and equine infectious anemia (EIA).

Sheep and Goat

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Infected flocks can experience significant production losses. The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) focuses on improving the health of domestic sheep and goats, reducing scrapie-associated economic losses, and increasing international marketing opportunities. APHIS and State animal health personnel implement NSEP standards to prevent, monitor, and eradicate classical scrapie throughout the United States. All 50 States maintain a Consistent State status under NSEP, where States must conduct an active scrapie control program which is verified through Consistent State reviews. In 2025, APHIS conducted a Consistent State review in Hawaii.

Regulatory scrapie slaughter surveillance efforts began in 2003 and were designed to identify scrapie infected flocks and herds by sampling animals at slaughter. Since then, the program has collected

samples from approximately 794,000 animals at slaughter, and only 471 sheep have tested positive for classical scrapie. There hasn't been a classical scrapie detection since January 2021. In 2025, APHIS collected samples from more than 26,100 sheep and goats for scrapie testing, with no animals testing positive for the classical form of the disease. One case of non-classical scrapie was detected in a sheep originating from an Idaho flock. Unlike classical scrapie, non-classical scrapie is either not laterally transmissible or is transmissible at a very low rate. WOAH and APHIS determined that it is not a disease of trade concern.

The NSEP's voluntary flock certification, the Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP), enables producers to enhance the marketability of their animals by monitoring them for scrapie and reducing the risk of introducing scrapie which provides participants an avenue to export sheep and goats. In 2025, 155 flocks were enrolled in SFCP. Of these, 30 were export certified (scrapie-free), 19 were export monitored (working towards documenting scrapie freedom), and 106 were select monitored (reduced scrapie risk).

Cervids

APHIS works with State agencies to encourage cervid owners to prevent CWD in their herds by enrolling in and meeting the requirements of the CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) Standards. The goal of the HCP is to provide a consistent, national approach to control the incidence of CWD in farmed cervids and prevent the interstate spread of CWD. In 2025, there were 1,446 herds across the 28 States participating in the CWD HCP in the U.S. In 2025, 15 percent of farmed cervids within the HCP States were tested for CWD and APHIS confirmed 41 CWD-positive herds. The infected herds are currently under State quarantines or have been depopulated. APHIS determines the use of Federal indemnity payments within the CWD program on a case-by-case basis.

In 2025, APHIS made approximately $12 million available for cooperative agreements with States and Tribal governments to further develop and implement CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities, including improved management of CWD-affected farmed and wild cervid populations; improved management of CWD-affected areas or premises; research on amplification assays and other new diagnostic methods; research on the application or implementation of a whole genome predictive genetics CWD management plan for farmed cervid herds; and development and distribution of educational materials or programs. For farmed cervid CWD projects. APHIS funded cooperative agreements with 16 State departments of agriculture or State animal health agencies and 3 universities or research institutions in 2025. To support wild cervid CWD management projects, APHIS funded agreements with 18 State wildlife agencies, 9 Tribal governments, and 5 universities in 2025. APHIS also provided approximately $2.89M in direct indemnity to cervid producers for depopulated CWD positive and exposed cervids.

APHIS also coordinates a voluntary cervid TB herd accreditation program. Herds that participate in this program must have negative TB results from two rounds of whole herd testing 9 to 15 months apart (on animals over 12 months of age) using either the Dual Path Platform (DPP) test or the Single Cervical Tuberculin (SCT) test for their herd to be TB accredited. Herds must retest every three years thereafter to maintain accredited herd status. In 2025, 8,270 animals were tested for TB using the DPP test and 706 using the SCT. Of the cervids tested using DPP, 88 were identified as suspects on the first round of testing, and 29 were classified as reactors based on the second round of DPP testing. None of the reactors were classified as TB positive on histopathology or culture. Of the cervids tested using the SCT, 2 suspects were identified on the first round of testing and both suspects were classified as TB negative on follow-up testing using the Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (CCT) test.

In 2025, APHIS continued a project to evaluate the DPP test (approved in 2012 for elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, reindeer, and fallow deer) for use as a primary and secondary TB test in mule, sika, and axis deer (the DPP test is a serologic test that performs comparable to skin tests for the diagnosis of bovine TB in cervids, with the added advantage of reducing animal handling and associated morbidity and mortality). As of the end of 2025, 448 mule deer, 192 sika deer, and 117 axis deer were tested as part of the project. All animals tested TB negative.

Equines

APHIS collaborates with Federal, State, and industry partners to protect the equine industry from disease, improve the health of our domestic herd, and protect human health. These activities improve trade and facilitate equine movement, which are vital to maintaining the industry's economic value. APHIS provides veterinary support and consultation to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program through an interagency cooperative agreement.

APHIS provides expertise and helps develop the industry's National Equine Health Plan. The plan functions as a roadmap for owners, veterinarians, and industry organizations to coordinate with State and Federal animal health officials to recognize, prevent, control, and respond to equine diseases. APHIS integrates the roles of the State and Federal health officials with industry stakeholders to improve both equine health and the industry by decreasing the impact of infectious disease on the horse economy.

In 2025, APHIS provided oversight and epidemiological support in response to 18 cases of equine piroplasmosis in 4 States, 93 cases of equine infectious anemia in 17 States, 186 cases of West Nile virus in 32 States, and 61 cases of Eastern equine encephalitis in 11 States. In 2025, an outbreak of contagious metritis occurred with at least 53 confirmed positive cases across at least 6 States (Iowa, Florida, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina). In 2025, APHIS maintained certification and annual proficiency testing for 20 equine viral arteritis laboratories, 12 EP laboratories, and 13 CEM laboratories, and additionally certified and conducted annual proficiency testing for 383 EIA laboratories. APHIS also participated in the Agricultural Research Services' VSV Grand Challenge project which produces scientific publications annually.

6. National Veterinary Stockpile

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS), overseen by APHIS' Field Operations Logistics Center, provides veterinary countermeasures, supplies, and equipment for the response to, control of, and containment of significant animal disease outbreaks. The NVS has two primary objectives. The first is to deploy certain countermeasures to requesting states, within 24 hours of approval, against the most damaging animal diseases including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), virulent Newcastle disease, classical swine fever, and African swine fever (ASF). The second objective is to assist States, Tribes, and Territories with planning, training, and exercising rapid requests, receipt, processing, and distribution of NVS countermeasures during an event. The NVS works with States, tribes, and territories to develop their logistics plans, conduct logistics training, and organize full-scale logistics exercises.

The NVS continuously evaluates and refreshes its inventory to maintain readiness. In 2025, The NVS deployed supplies, equipment and contractor support to States responding to HPAI outbreaks for poultry and dairy cattle across the United States. Also, the NVS purchased sampling supplies to build New World Screwworm (NWS) traps, as well as purchasing animal treatments. The NVS coordinated the purchase of additional supplies and emergency response equipment for Puerto Rico in support of enhanced ASF surveillance and outbreak preparedness activities. The NVS purchased a Classical Swine Fever (CSF) vaccine in preparation for a possible CSF outbreak in the United States swine herds. Additionally, NVS added large incinerator units and carcass bags to support disposal operations in the event of an animal disease outbreak. The NVS Catalog was updated to include new items, such as carcass carts, carcass bags, ASF and NWS sampling collection supplies, and incinerators.

The NVS coordinates and supports activities with States, Tribes, and territories to improve logistical readiness in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak (FAD) through training and exercises. In 2025 NVS created a vaccine logistics Ready Reference Guide to inform APHIS and States of the logistics procedures for receiving, storing and redistributing vaccines. Additionally, NVS held internal workshops to solidify stockpile plans and led a cross unit virtual workshop to align planning with other APHIS units as it relates to FMD vaccine strategy. The NVS held a tabletop exercise with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in preparation for an upcoming FMD Full Scale Exercise. The tabletop exercise was to review the State's FMD vaccination plan logistics.

In 2025, APHIS continued to maintain the North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB) as part of the Agency's animal health readiness initiative. The NAFMDVB is a vaccine stockpile that the United States and Canada cooperatively support. Each country has contributed funding to acquire and maintain a stockpile of vaccine antigen concentrate, from which FMD vaccine is derived. Canada and the United States continue to ensure that the Bank maintains stocks of vaccine antigen concentrate and conducts necessary quality assurance testing. A portion of NVS funding was used to acquire new antigen for FMD preparedness. The NAFMDVB will continue to prepare for the transition to the new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, KS, expected in 2026. This transition work includes digitizing records and historical documents, reducing inventory that is not needed at NBAF and closing Plum Island laboratory spaces, and establishing laboratory and animal study capabilities at NBAF for potency and stability testing of purchased NAFMDVB vaccine antigen concentrate.

7. Swine Health

APHIS' Swine Health Program protects the health and improves the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the swine industry. The 2024 production value of the swine industry was approximately $26 billion (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service). In addition, the program facilitates trade in swine and pork products and addresses swine health issues at the human-swine interface and between wildlife and domestic swine. APHIS activities include comprehensive and integrated swine surveillance, emergency preparedness and response planning, disease investigation and control activities, zoonotic disease prevention and response, swine health studies and special projects, collaborations on emerging issues, and outreach and communication with stakeholders. In addition, the Agency maintains regulatory and programmatic guidelines that direct activities at the Federal, State, and Tribal levels. Establishing and maintaining national standards support interstate and international commerce by ensuring the health of swine and swine products being moved or traded.

Swine Health Improvement Plan

In 2025, APHIS devoted $1 million to the development of an official sustainable U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). This investment builds on activities that were included in the SHIP pilot project, which began in 2021. In 2025, APHIS continued to transition the pilot program into a fully established swine certification program. To achieve this goal, APHIS drafted and published a proposed rule and accompanying Program Standards document in the Federal Register. The proposed rule was open for two 30-day comment periods and 67 comments, overwhelmingly in support of the proposed rule, were received. APHIS also continued to support Official State Agencies to further increase the enrollment of swine premises in the SHIP and hosted the annual House of Delegates (a forum of industry stakeholders) meeting to increase program engagement and maturation. The most recent U.S. SHIP House of Delegates meeting took place September 2, 2025, in Bloomington, Minnesota and was attended by more than 300 industry, State, Federal and academic representatives. At this meeting, the delegate body proposed expanding certification programs, enhancing disease surveillance through aggregate sampling, and formalizing governance structures to strengthen national swine health and biosecurity. To further support program development and increase resources available for participants and Official State Agencies, APHIS published a U.S. SHIP website and initiated the fabrication of supporting tools for participants, such as a searchable database of certified swine sites.

When fully established, the U.S. SHIP program will be a collaborative effort involving State, industry, and Federal partners and will provide standards for certifying the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, States, and regions. It will be a key part of APHIS' national plan to safeguard U.S. pork production from African swine fever (ASF), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), and other diseases, and it will support industry leadership on sustainable solutions to ASF preparedness and prevention. Producer participation will enhance biosecurity and traceability practices, bolstering APHIS' ability to control disease and return to productivity and marketability in the event of an ASF or CSF incursion in its swine sector. The program will eventually have the potential to reduce trade impacting disease-related market risks; establish an officially recognized program for monitoring for

foreign diseases that can support and sustain interstate and export commerce in an outbreak; facilitate larger efforts to mitigate the impact of recurring endemic diseases of high consequence; and garner feedback in an officially recognized forum to inform Federal and State programs, planning, and activities. As of September 30, 2025, 69 percent of the U.S. Swine Inventory was enrolled in the pilot.

Swine Health Surveillance and Related Activities

APHIS conducts routine, active surveillance of commercial swine herds and non-commercial high-risk swine herds for pseudorabies (PRV) and swine brucellosis (SB). In 2025, the Agency tested 80,524 samples. Although testing results confirmed that all commercial swine herds continue to be free from PRV and SB, APHIS supported more than 120 trace and on-farm investigations of swine herds from which non-negative results were referred to APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories for confirmatory testing. Of these investigations, APHIS confirmed SB disease detection in 4 herds and PRV detection in 13 herds, coordinated indemnity payments for 3 herds to facilitate herd clean up, and facilitated the necropsy of 13 swine from 5 premises to exclude SB infection. Most herds investigated were not infected with PRV or SB, and the herds that were infected were identified to be non-commercial high-risk herds with known feral swine exposure. When disease is confirmed, APHIS and State cooperators investigate and quarantine infected herds, conduct outbreak testing to determine herd disease levels, and depopulate or remove infected animals through a test-and-removal strategy to eliminate disease risk from these herds. These efforts protect commercial herds that may be exposed to infected backyard herds.

APHIS continued an ASF/CSF surveillance program in 2025, testing 49,670 specimens at the NAHLN laboratories, the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), and the Dorado laboratory. The FADDL tested 133 CSF-only serum specimens. Of these, 99 percent originated from high-risk domestic swine and less than 1 percent originated from feral swine. APHIS continues to sample all higher-risk swine and a subset of feral swine for ASF and CSF from high-risk counties in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. In April 2024, APHIS expanded sero-surveillance in feral swine through the entire invaded range to include ASF serology in addition to the serologic testing previously and routinely conducted for CSF, pseudorabies virus, and swine brucellosis. Sero-surveillance is the collection and testing of specimens against a pathogen to assess prevalence changes. In 2025, the Agency tested 17,140 samples from feral swine via antibody-based diagnostics for ASF and CSF, and 4,266 samples via antibody-based diagnostics for both ASF and CSF. ASF has not been detected in the United States and CSF remains eradicated from the United States. In 2025, the program tested 742 pooled whole blood swab samples, 1,329 whole blood samples, and 1,739 serum samples in the ASF Protection Zone.

APHIS performed slightly fewer foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations in swine in 2025 compared to 2024. In 2025, APHIS performed 818 FAD investigations in swine, and all were negative. A total of 789 of the investigations included testing for vesicular diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and 10 included testing for hemorrhagic fevers, such as ASF and CSF. Seven of the FAD investigations included testing for both vesicular diseases and hemorrhagic fevers.

In 2025, APHIS distributed a draft modernized and unified PRV Program Standards and SB Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) and evaluated the existing surveillance program. The SB and PRV surveillance and regulatory programs are increasingly executed in tandem due to commonalities in the populations of at-risk swine, methods of disease detection and response, and strategies to ensure disease exclusion. APHIS is evaluating how to effectively execute this program given the commercial swine industry continues to maintain disease-free status and separation from the non-commercial farms at risk for SB and PRV exposure.

In 2025, APHIS implemented the *Swine Hemorrhagic Fevers Integrated Surveillance Plan,* which included modifications to improve the program. These modifications enhance risk-based targeting of swine subpopulations through ongoing disease introduction risk analyses, re-evaluating State sample target numbers to efficiently execute geographically representative disease surveillance and continuing to develop and expand the use of tools to capture and share electronic information.

Coordination and Collaboration

APHIS has the responsibility under the Swine Health Protection Act (SHPA) to license and inspect swine production facilities that feed cooked garbage to swine, and to conduct searches for unlicensed facilities that may illegally feed raw garbage to swine. In addition, the SHPA authorizes States to have primary enforcement responsibility, which provides authority to regulate the feeding of garbage to swine. If a State fails to meet SHPA enforcement requirements, APHIS may assume responsibility in the State. Feeding untreated or improperly treated garbage could transmit infectious diseases such as ASF, FMD, or CSF to swine. In 2025, 23 States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands allowed the feeding of cooked garbage to swine. Twenty-four States hold primary enforcement responsibility, and the remaining 28 maintain a cooperative Federal/State enforcement program. There are 58 active licensed garbage feeders in the United States. As of September 30, 2025, APHIS had supported 1,151routine inspections of licensed premises and 2,818 searches for non-licensed facilities in 2025. Through these searches, the Agency identified 2 non-licensed feeders. APHIS worked with States to either bring unlicensed facilities into compliance or force them to cease their illegal activities.

Zoonotic Disease Preparedness and Prevention

Swine can harbor several zoonotic disease agents, such as SB and influenza A viruses in swine (IAV-S). In such cases, state public health and animal health officials conduct investigations, and request support from APHIS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when warranted. Joint animal health and public health investigations support the One-Health concept and strengthen APHIS' ability to respond when both animal and human health might be compromised. In 2025, State public health officials reported one human variant influenza A case in Iowa. The patient had no agricultural links or exposure to swine or other livestock. Many States and local public health officials find information derived from whole genome sequencing helpful in their investigations. APHIS and ARS have established a surveillance program for influenza A in swine (IAV-S) to help States and industry identify and sequence isolates from circulating influenza strains and associated outbreaks. In 2025, more than 885 IAV-S isolates were entered into this program. States and industry enter genetic sequences from the samples tested in this program into GenBank, a publicly accessible genomic database that provides the scientific community with comprehensive DNA sequence information to support diagnostic test and vaccine development.

8. Veterinary Biologics

APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) regulates veterinary biological products under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act to ensure that these products are pure, safe, potent, and effective. The CVB develops regulations concerning the production and licensing of veterinary biologics, evaluates pre-licensing dossiers and issuance of licenses and permits, tests products submitted for licensure, inspects facilities and products, approves product certifications, investigates non-compliance, and conducts post-marketing surveillance to ensure that manufacturers comply with all relevant regulations and policies. The CVB continued to ensure an effective, efficient, and responsive veterinary biologics program that can provide timely approvals and availability of veterinary vaccines, diagnostics, and other novel biologics to protect animal and public health and enhance export opportunities for U.S. veterinary biologics companies.

Licensed Products and Inspections

APHIS licenses and inspects facilities to ensure that all veterinary biological products produced and distributed within, imported into, or exported from the United States are of the highest quality, and are not worthless, contaminated, dangerous, or harmful. All countries require import and export certificates to certify that all veterinary biological products are prepared in accordance with the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act. In 2025, APHIS reviewed/processed 2,305 Certificates of Licensing and Inspection and reviewed/processed 1,810 export certificates for veterinary biological products. The Agency achieved its internal goal of processing all export certificates within 4 days, and all certificates of licensing and inspection within 28 days. Timely processing helps ensure that markets are accessible for manufacturers who export their product. APHIS also helped ensure there were no foreign animal disease events related to the importation of more than 1.13 billion doses of biological products, a 73

percent increase from 2024, in the number of doses imported. Each year, APHIS inspects an average of 45 biologics facilities to assure regulatory compliance. In 2025, APHIS conducted 85 inspections.

In 2025, APHIS received 78 applications for new and renewal licenses/permits and issued 34 licenses/permits for the prevention, diagnosis, management, or cure of existing or new/emerging animal diseases. This data depends on the biologics manufacturers and is outside CVB's control. The Agency licensed 80 manufacturers and permittees for 1,362 active product licenses/permits for the control of animal diseases in 2025. These products are vital for protecting American agriculture, facilitating trade, and enhancing agricultural economic opportunities. CVB also released approximately 131.8 billion doses of veterinary vaccines and diagnostic test kits in 2025, a five percent increase from the approximately 125.5 billion doses released in 2024. In 2025, the Agency issued licenses for veterinary biologic products within an average of 667 workdays. This represented a 10 percent increase from an average of 606 workdays in 2024. This increase was attributable to significant staff turnover and the training required for new staff to review all aspects of license packages. These packages encompass the manufacturing technology and complex scientific studies required to ensure product purity, safety, potency, and efficacy. With training in place, and filling of most of the funded reviewer vacancies, the timeframe to issue licenses should decrease as long as there are no high consequence disease outbreaks requiring priority review of licensing submissions.

APHIS' National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) Portal allows real-time communication and data exchange between APHIS and biologics manufacturers, reducing the time and costs for application review. The Agency continued to enhance the NCAH Portal for more comprehensive electronic submissions and two-way data exchange. By the end of 2025, 98 percent of licensed firms and permittees were using the NCAH Portal. This resulted in CVB receiving 99 percent of marketing documents, 98 percent of biographical summaries, 93 percent of licensing correspondence, and 77 percent of inspection and compliance correspondence through the NCAH Portal. In 2025, the NCAH Portal received 96 percent of export certificates and 98 percent of facility documents. Import permits submitted electronically represented 100 percent of Research and Evaluation Permits, 100 percent of Transit Permits, and 76 percent of Sales and Distribution Permits. Overall, 95 percent of 2024 CVB submissions were received through the NCAH Portal. In total, CVB received 36,628 submissions from the Portal in 2025, an increase of nearly 4.6 percent from 35,003 submissions in 2024.

APHIS continued to enforce the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act regulation in 2025, requiring all veterinary biologics licensees and permittees to submit reports to the CVB concerning adverse events associated with the use of biological products they produce or distribute domestically and internationally. An adverse event is any illness, reaction, or other undesirable occurrence after the use of an immunobiological product, whether the product caused the event. For diagnostics products, adverse events include anything that hinders the discovery of the correct diagnosis. Adverse event reports are a vital component of CVB's mission to ensure that veterinary biologics, including those marketed internationally, comply with regulations. In 2025, CVB continued working to improve the quality of data submitted by manufacturers. In response to the mandatory reporting requirement, CVB received 72,154 adverse event reports in 2025. This represented a 6 percent decrease from the 76,705 that CVB received in 2024. APHIS also performed 225 regulatory actions, issued 54 violation notices, and conducted 18 investigations of possible violations. More than 99 percent of the unlicensed entities investigated either moved toward product licensure or ceased the objectionable activity.

9. Veterinary Diagnostics

Laboratory and diagnostic services are essential components of the U.S. animal health infrastructure. The Veterinary Diagnostics line item supports efforts to stand up the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas which will help protect the nation's agriculture, farmers, and citizens against the potential threat and effects of serious foreign and zoonotic animal diseases. This line item also supports the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), which consists of laboratories in Ames, Iowa and Plum Island, New York, and NVSL's satellite African swine fever (ASF) testing laboratory in Dorado, Puerto Rico. The Veterinary Diagnostics line item also supports the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), an animal disease surveillance and monitoring

system that interconnects Federal and State laboratory resources to improve the security of the nation's livestock by providing disease diagnostics both daily and at increased levels during outbreaks.

National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility

The state-of-the-art NBAF is used to study transboundary, emerging, and zoonotic animal diseases that threaten the U.S. agriculture economy, food supply, and public health. NBAF will ultimately replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), and all its essential functions, as well as provide additional capabilities for high-risk zoonotic pathogens and early development of veterinary medical countermeasures. In 2025, APHIS and ARS continued the phased transition of NVSL's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) at the PIADC to NBAF. NBAF is currently operating at a biosafety level 2 status with activities including active surveillance testing, proficiency testing production, and clean cell culture production.

APHIS continues to develop a workforce interested in working in high containment laboratories through the NBAF Laboratory Training Program (NLTP). As of the end of 2025, 99 students completed the NLTP with 30 additional students completing the program in December 2025. APHIS continues NLTP partnerships with Tuskegee University, Kansas State University, and Texas Tech University. APHIS developed subject matter expertise in foreign, emerging, and zoonotic diseases through university partnerships in the NBAF Scientist Training Program (NSTP). Since the start of the NSTP, APHIS has onboarded 26 NSTP Fellows into permanent positions.

APHIS participates in the Global Partnership for Animal and Zoonotic Disease Surveillance (GPAZDS), which links NBAF to nine laboratories in Africa, Jordan, and the Philippines, to better understand high consequence diseases endemic in other countries and develop and/or validate diagnostic tests with current disease isolates. In addition, the Agency partners with the Research Alliance for Veterinary Science and Biodefense BSL-3 Network (RAV3N), which involves 20 U.S. BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories jointly funded with ARS, as well as the BSL4ZNet, an international network of animal and human health laboratories ensuring APHIS has the latest threat and research information on high consequence animal and zoonotic diseases. In 2023, APHIS developed an NAHLN-NBAF partnership to institute a regional NAHLN laboratory approach to enhance agro-defense capabilities Scientists placed at five NAHLN laboratories were tasked with evaluating local, regional, national, and international threats and ensuring the NAHLN laboratories have the tools necessary to diagnose emerging threats. The program will enhance the Nation's veterinary laboratory systems to respond to immediate, emerging animal threats with improved diagnostics to sustain the U.S. agricultural well-being. In 2025, each Partnership Scientist initiated regional meetings and other communications with stakeholders to discuss strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the respective regions. Two of the Partnership Scientists established and co-chair the AAVLD Next Generation Diagnostics Subcommittee. In May and July of 2025, members of the NAHLN and Program Scientists hosted and provided training for the Next-Generation Sequencing Symposia at Michigan State University (88 participants from 49 NAHLN laboratories) and Colorado State University (96 participants from 46 NAHLN laboratories) to gather NAHLN member laboratories for hands-on training in sequencing and bioinformatics. A Strategic Plan for the Partnership has been developed with plans to share by Quarter 2 of 2026.

National Veterinary Services Laboratories

Diagnostic testing and confirmation of surveillance samples improve the security of the nation's livestock. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories are on the forefront of emerging and re-emerging diseases of concern including ASF, virulent Newcastle disease, tilapia lake virus, infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus, Senecavirus A (SVA), bluetongue, vesicular stomatitis virus, and rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus. In 2025, NVSL managed 588,790 diagnostic tests and 44,285 accessions (one or more diagnostic samples received from the same submitter on the same day). In 2025, the laboratories produced and shipped more than 90,000 reagent order items representing approximately 512 product types. Many of these products are only available to stakeholders through APHIS.

Since 2014, APHIS has conducted significantly more FAD investigations, due to the emergence of Senecavirus A (SVA), a non-fatal infectious disease of pigs. Because it mimics FMD, APHIS must diagnose each case to exclude FMD. In 2025, NVSL tested 15,223 samples from 4,428 FAD accessions across 45 States and territories. The NAHLN serves as a resource to conduct high-volume testing with confidence. SVA and FMD PCR results (if negative for FMD) from NAHLN laboratories can be considered final and actionable for the field. Using an FMD/SVA multiplex assay in the NAHLN laboratories that facilitates simultaneous testing for both diseases from a single sample has saved time, money, and resources.

APHIS conducts proficiency testing when Federal, State, and university-sponsored laboratories perform authorized diagnostic testing as part of APHIS-approved surveillance and/or response programs. This is done to ensure standardized, rapid diagnostic techniques are used and to maintain diagnostic credibility in the international marketplace. In 2025, APHIS produced 26 proficiency panels covering 25 diseases or procedures available to international, Federal, State, and private laboratories. The Agency produced the necessary controls and reference strains for approximately 200 diseases to help other laboratories develop and validate diagnostic tests.

In 2025, NVSL completed the core activities of a new Laboratory Information Management System called DARBI (Diagnostic and Research Biomaterial Inventory). These functions include accessioning, subject creation, sample creation, report distribution, the collection of user fees for requested testing, and developing workflows for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) tests. A PCR test is used to detect infectious agents, while an ELISA test can detect antibodies. NVSL has transitioned all Diagnostic Laboratories to the new system for diagnostic reporting. APHIS expects that this new system will improve efficiency by allowing laboratory sections to have paperless workflows and improved search functions.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network

The Veterinary Diagnostics program also provides support to the NAHLN including laboratory infrastructure; NAHLN staff; the APHIS Laboratory Portal, which provides secure communication for NAHLN laboratories and proficiency test management for NAHLN and non-NAHLN APHIS-approved laboratories; information management system support for electronic messaging; and quality management training to enable NAHLN laboratories to participate in the network. NAHLN personnel are trained at NVSL to ensure diagnostic proficiency and standardization. As of September 30, 2025, the NAHLN consisted of 66 State, Federal, and university laboratories in 43 States. These laboratories work with the NVSL reference laboratories to test for 14 economically devastating and/or FADs and potential zoonotic diseases. These diseases include FMD; avian, bovine, swine influenza, ASF, and classical swine fever (CSF). In 2025, network laboratories performed over 930,000 diagnostic tests to support APHIS' animal health surveillance and response programs for NAHLN scope diseases, including ASF/CSF active surveillance. The NAHLN conducts exercises to prepare participating laboratories for animal disease outbreak scenarios and enable them to remain proficient in animal disease testing. It also enables them to generate rapid, local preliminary diagnostic results while NVSL performs confirmatory testing.

NAHLN staff use various communication mechanisms to efficiently exchange information among laboratories and State and Federal officials. One mechanism is the NAHLN Coordinating Council, which consists of laboratory directors, State animal health officials, and officials from APHIS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. A laboratory designation system reflects different capability levels for surveillance, preparedness, and emergency response preparation. NAHLN laboratories designated as Level 1, -2, or -3 receive infrastructure support from USDA, and conduct fee-for-service testing for the USDA. In 2025, the Council approved 36 Level-1 laboratories, 25 Level-2 laboratories, 2 Level-3 laboratories, and 3 Federal Affiliate laboratories. NAHLN continues to prioritize electronic messaging in their laboratory assessments. All NAHLN laboratories are capable of electronically messaging results in near real-time for the diseases under scope for which a message can be received.

Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities

APHIS' NVSL and the NAHLN collaborate to provide high quality and timely results for the HPAI outbreak in poultry and cattle. NVSL provide consistent, timely sequencing results for both domestic and wild bird species. APHIS has made available to the public over 8,014 dairy cattle, poultry, wildlife and related sequences of HPAI through the National Center for Biotechnology Information including release of 5,776 polished sequences. The NCBI is a branch of the National Institutes of Health and offers online access to various databases.

APHIS continues to expand its rapid detection capability to maintain a timely, effective response and build surge capacity in case of an ASF outbreak. The Agency engaged in collaborative efforts at FADDL and across the NAHLN to strengthen diagnostic preparedness. To enhance capacity in the NAHLN, FADDL provided proficiency testing to NAHLN laboratories, maintaining its ASF testing capacity in 2025 with 50 approved laboratories and 12 of these NAHLN laboratories perform ASF/CSF active surveillance. In 2025, APHIS published a 2024 study collaborating with Ghana to evaluate the efficacy of early detection of ASF with oral fluids using a single infected pig as a source. Based on those promising results, APHIS executed an agreement with Ghana to fund an additional oral fluid infection study evaluating early detection with feed as a source. The analysis of the second study will be completed in 2026. Collectively, these studies will inform APHIS policy regarding oral fluids as an official sample type. APHIS continues to evaluate and define capability and capacity needs for a potential ASF outbreak. The Agency continues to develop strategies to use oral fluids to achieve early and rapid detection of positive cases. NVSL continues conducting ASF diagnostic developmental projects and testing at Ames, Iowa. In addition, APHIS continued molecular and serological surveillance testing for ASF and CSF at NVSL's satellite laboratory in Puerto Rico establishing a quality management system with bilingual standard operating procedures. Finally, APHIS, in collaboration with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), strategized on how to improve and harmonize diagnostic methods to enhance ASF preparedness.

10. Zoonotic Disease Management

"One Health" is a collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach—working at the local, regional, national, and global levels—with the goal to achieve optimal health outcomes while recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. The Zoonotic Disease Management Program enhances State, national, and international collaborative efforts to promote healthy animals, people, and ecosystems by addressing zoonotic diseases (those that pass between animals and people) and other relevant One Health issues.

The Agency contributes animal health expertise, infrastructure, and networks in combination with those of human and environmental health to provide holistic solutions to complex One Health problems. The Agency collaborates with industry and State partners to develop strategies, policies, and training to help stakeholders effectively engage with public health counterparts, provide guidance, facilitate information exchange, and enhance responses to One Health issues. By enhancing APHIS' efforts to address the animal health component of One Health, the program protects public health and improves animal health and marketability.

Zoonotic Disease and One Health Engagement, Investigation, and Response

In 2025, APHIS continued work on the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Initiative. This initiative is composed of five projects that address the challenges of bovine TB eradication. APHIS is the lead on this work and collaborates with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Mexican entities. The projects include clinical trials to test the efficacy of TB vaccines in cattle and deer, evaluation of new TB diagnostic tests, in-depth epidemiological analysis of affected herd investigations to determine TB introduction source, increasing slaughter surveillance numbers, and acquisition of TB sample data from other countries. In 2025, in collaboration with public health partners focused on the zoonotic aspects of TB, APHIS distributed 90 TB Lesion Flipbooks for slaughter personnel to better identify possible TB lesions. This work addresses critical gaps in slaughter surveillance.

In 2025, APHIS successfully transferred the management of the Baja California project to the University of Baja California and was able to enroll and vaccinate more than 4,521 calves across four

dairies. APHIS will continue these vaccination efforts with the goal of enrolling and vaccinating 6,000 calves. APHIS established agreements with these operations to share production and health data to evaluate the effectiveness of vaccination. Additionally, APHIS continued evaluating a test that will distinguish between vaccinated and unvaccinated animals and has the potential to increase specificity over the current blood test. APHIS also assisted in the vaccination of free-ranging deer in Michigan to reduce the incidence of TB. APHIS worked with ARS to develop an effective bait-based delivery system for use in free-ranging white-tailed deer. APHIS and ARS stabilized the vaccine and are working to provide a carrier to incorporate into field deployable baits.

Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of medication previously used to treat it. There continues to be a gap in understanding of AMR patterns in bacteria that cause disease in animals and having national-level information on AMR in animal health pathogens is an important component of addressing AMR at the Federal level. To combat AMR, APHIS uses a One Health approach involving multidisciplinary coordination from public health and animal health sectors, and private sector organizations and stakeholders. APHIS works with its State, Federal, and industry partners to promote the judicious use of antimicrobials, which supports a strong, healthy, and thriving U.S. animal agriculture system as well as public health. Additionally, APHIS collaborates with State Departments of Agriculture, diagnostic laboratories, and public health officials to address AMR infections in humans found to have an animal component. APHIS also is currently investigating the presence of AMR genes in biologics, particularly those capable of vertical and lateral transfer and regardless of the occurrence of an AMR phenotype.

In 2025, APHIS awarded approximately $5 million through 8 cooperative agreements to maintain, expand, and utilize previously developed antimicrobial resistance (AMR) dashboard tools. These awards, in partnership with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and various universities, aim to enhance scientific knowledge on AMR. These public-private partnerships will improve access to information on AMR in livestock, poultry, and companion animals. The NAHLN AMR dashboard monitors trends and detects emerging resistance profiles. It continues to provide whole genome sequencing data to the National Center for Biotechnology Information and includes antimicrobial susceptibility testing data. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing data from over 4885 isolates and Whole Genome Sequencing data from over 771 isolates were collected by the NAHLN AMR monitoring program. APHIS continues to be involved with the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).

APHIS works with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-Center for Veterinary Medicine on their approach to measure the use of antimicrobial drugs in food producing animals. APHIS annually reports progress updates to partner agencies on activities associated with the National Action Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance. In 2025, APHIS continued to participate in the Presidential Advisory Council for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. APHIS also presented information on antimicrobial resistance activities at several events including the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Annual Antibiotics Symposium.

APHIS participated in several international AMR activities in 2025. APHIS and the FDA submitted a report on antibiotic use in animal agriculture to the WOAH Global Database on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals in compliance with international standards. APHIS continues to participate in the Quads Animal Health Alliance Antimicrobial Resistance Network and uses this forum to share information on topics including progress on AMR National Action Plans, challenges regarding antimicrobial use and resistance monitoring, communication activities, and relevant legislation. APHIS also continues to review AMR-related statements and positions that stakeholders and other governmental and nongovernmental agencies promulgate that may have implications for animal agriculture.

Zoonotic Disease Preparedness

APHIS continues to coordinate with cross sector partners to develop and implement national and international One Health strategies and strengthen our emergency response capacities to ensure a

quick response to zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential. In January 2025, APHIS co-authored the first ever National One Health Framework to Address Zoonotic Diseases and Advance Public Health Preparedness in the United States, 2025-2029, which establishes a structure to facilitate multisectoral and transdisciplinary coordination, collaboration, and communication across the federal government. Additionally, APHIS continues to participate in the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza Health Security working group. This group exchanges information on animal and human health sector responses to zoonotic diseases, include modeling, detection, diagnostic information and healthcare capacity and capability data. In 2025, APHIS shared animal health information with the CDC on New World Screwworm, mpox, Japanese encephalitis virus, and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

In August 2025, APHIS, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, participated in a tabletop exercise to assess readiness, communication, and coordination among federal, state, and provincial agricultural leaders within the Tri-National community related to surveillance, early detection, and rapid response to a foreign animal disease. Additionally, APHIS coordinates and reports USDA's international efforts related to implementation of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), a partnership of over 70 nations, international organization, and non-governmental stakeholders to minimize the threat of infectious diseases on the world stage. APHIS coordinates GHSA reporting on zoonotic disease, AMR, biosafety and biosecurity, national laboratory systems, and real time disease surveillance, ensuring interagency collaboration and communication with relevant agencies and stakeholders, both international and domestic.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Plant Health:

1. Agricultural Quarantine Inspection

APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources from the introduction of invasive pests and diseases through the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program. APHIS assesses the risks associated with international trade and specific imported agricultural products and develops import regulations to exclude foreign pests and diseases and protect U.S. agriculture. In addition, the Agency conducts off-shore pest risk reduction activities including foreign commodity pre-clearance programs; trains agricultural inspectors and detector dog teams to work at U.S. ports of entry; inspects and takes action as necessary on imported plant propagative materials; monitors the fumigation of arriving containers and cargo to mitigate pest risks; conducts trade compliance activities to detect violations of APHIS' import regulations and prevent smuggling; and provides the scientific support necessary to carry out these activities and those carried out by CBP, including, among other things, the authoritative and timely identification of pests necessary to determine whether regulatory actions on imported products are required.

APHIS collects AQI user fees under the authority of The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, to recover costs for services provided by APHIS and CBP associated with preclearance inspections of passengers and the port-of-entry arrival of commercial vessels, trucks, loaded railroad cars, aircraft, and passengers entering the U.S. from a foreign destination. On May 7, 2024, APHIS published a final rule in the Federal Register updating the user fee rates to account for changes in commercial transportation and travel patterns along with inflationary factors and program costs. Fees for the AQI program had last been updated in 2015. The new rates became effective on October 1, 2024, and will allow the AQI program to recover the full costs of carrying out the inspection and other safeguarding activities that protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources.

APHIS also receives appropriated funding for pre-departure inspections of passengers and cargo traveling from Hawaii and Puerto Rico to the continental United States to prevent the introduction of non-native agricultural pests and diseases into the continental United States while facilitating the movement of travelers and agricultural goods. APHIS inspects all passenger baggage leaving these islands because of the risks associated with pests of fruits and vegetables grown in these areas. When inspectors identify an item that poses a specific risk, they take immediate action to prevent the entry of materials that could harbor the pest or disease in question. This action prevents damage to the country's agricultural industry and negates the need for cost control and eradication programs. APHIS

also partners with industry groups and State and Commonwealth counterparts to facilitate the safe movement of cargo. In Hawaii, the State Department of Agriculture conducts nursery inspections and certifies nursery stock on APHIS' behalf for shipment to the continental United States.

APHIS inspectors oversee the preclearance of certain commodities by inspecting shipments for export in the country of origin, monitoring treatments where required, or by monitoring systems approaches for pest mitigation (a combination of integrated pest management practices used in the field and after harvest). In most cases, exporters of the pre-cleared commodity cover the costs of this APHIS service through trust funds established for this purpose.

Cooperative Program Management

APHIS works with CBP to protect America's agricultural resources and food supply by inspecting international passenger baggage, cargo, and conveyances. APHIS and CBP share management of the program through working groups and daily collaboration. Senior leadership of both Agencies meet frequently to develop joint plans and coordinate efforts in priority areas, ensure clear and balanced decision-making, streamline effective outreach and communication, and improve organizational structure and leadership to support the shared work in the agriculture safeguarding mission. In 2025, APHIS trained 120 new CBP agriculture specialists and conducted basic agricultural threat training for 1,944 first line CBP officers. In addition, APHIS provided training support to CBP Agriculture Specialists who delivered military cooperator inspector training, certifying 620 Department of Defense (DOD) cooperators who perform agriculture quarantine inspections in mainland U.S. military installations and delivering USDA Military Cooperator Train-the-Trainer certification workshop training to 24 CBP Agriculture Specialist field trainers. These cooperators prevent the entry of agricultural pests and diseases associated with military equipment and/or personnel returning from overseas military installations to the United States. Additionally, APHIS trained 13 Agriculture Detector Dog Team Supervisors, 13 Agriculture Canine Certifiers, and 40 Canine Teams for CBP.

Preclearance and Offshore Risk Reduction (PEIP)

One of the most effective ways to facilitate the safe movement of commodities into the U.S. is to address pest threats where they originate. In 2025, APHIS precleared 5.6 billion pounds of 84 different fresh fruits and vegetables from 19 countries before they arrived in the United States. Additionally, APHIS inspected 1.9 billion pounds of avocados in Mexico as a part of a systems approach to facilitate safe trade. APHIS has overseen this program since 1997, and the program accounts for about 80 percent of avocado imports to the United States. APHIS also precleared 2.6 million pounds of cut flowers, bulbs, and perennials from Chile and approximately 880 million bulbs and perennials from the Netherlands and South Africa.

APHIS conducts certain inspections and certifications overseas to verify that treatment or production facilities meet the Agency's standards and regulatory requirements to help protect U.S. plant health from pests that could move into the United States with high-demand, large-volume commodity imports. In 2025, APHIS certified 197 phytosanitary treatment facilities, including 75 facilities in Mexico, 6 facilities in Central America, 8 facilities in Caribbean, 101 facilities in South America, and 7 facilities in Asia. APHIS is currently tracking 307 offshore treatment facilities in 20 countries. Among the most common mitigation types are hot water treatment (149 active facilities) and methyl bromide fumigation (129 active facilities). These actions ensure the efficacy of offshore treatments that protect American agriculture from potential pests on imported commodities before they arrive onshore.

Through audit-based monitoring programs, APHIS oversees almost 90 commodity programs that mitigate pests before they reach U.S. ports. Of these, 6 programs require annual audits of all or a portion of their facilities. APHIS completed 43 propagative plant material facility audits and recertifications, including 20 Ralstonia exclusion program facilities for geranium cuttings and tomato plantlets in growing media, 7 offshore greenhouse certification program facilities, 9 Dracaena Clean Stock Program facilities (a genus that includes many popular houseplants), and 7 facilities in the Netherlands plants in growing media (PIGM) program. These four programs alone allowed for the safe import of 298 million propagative plant units with a wholesale value of $86 million (based on industry-provided data). APHIS conducted 4 initial certification or recertification audits at 22 offshore facilities

exporting, or requesting to export, fruits and vegetables to the United States. The programs audited include Spain bell peppers (7 facilities), irradiated Australian litchis and mangoes (6 facilities), Mexico table stock potatoes (4 facilities), and Ecuador avocados (5 facilities).

In cooperation with the Australian national plant protection organization (NPPO), APHIS facilitated biosecurity compliance of U.S. military operations in Australia at the USMC Agriculture Inspector Training and Certification Exercise and Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS25) exercise in the Pacific Command. More than 12 nations and 53,000 participants contributed in TS25. APHIS trains active-duty and reserve military Approved Agriculture Inspectors to support sovereign immunity on U.S. military vessels upholding Australian biosecurity standards and port of entry clearance requirements. APHIS deployed 5 inspectors to 3 U.S. Navy amphibious vessels and 6 Australian Royal Airforce Bases. Inspectors conducted over 400 physical inspections of aircraft, vessels, military equipment, and soldier's packing and webbing resulting in 226 detections of agricultural interceptions. This critical function supports bilateral agreements, protects Australian ecosystems, and supports the operational readiness of U.S. military forces.

To help the U.S. military prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases and plant pests, APHIS partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense to inspect 29,929 shipments of personal goods, 1.7 million pieces of military cargo, and 10,084 privately owned vehicles (POVs) originating from 18 countries before their return to the United States. APHIS conducted annual evaluations and recertifications of military preclearance programs across 114 countries in Europe and Africa, ensuring each program met all administrative, operational, and safeguarding standards. Additionally, APHIS trained 209 military service members to oversee and manage these programs locally throughout the EUCOM and AFRICOM regions.

Defoliating moth species from Asia, or the flighted spongy moth complex (FSMC) made up of five Lymantria species and subspecies, present a significant threat to U.S. forests. These moths can lay their eggs on the superstructure of maritime vessels, allowing the pest to spread into new territories. In partnership with CBP, APHIS coordinated the inspection of approximately 3,782 vessels that had visited high-risk ports within the last 24 months. Vessels can request a predeparture FSMC inspection certificate from 28 NPPO-accredited certification bodies in high-risk countries, including China, Japan, Korea, and Russia. APHIS coordinates on the standard for these inspections with its counterparts in Argentina, Canada, Chile, and New Zealand. This program mitigated FSMC infestations on 47 ships in 2025.

In cooperation with North Carolina State University, APHIS provided 40 pest alert notifications to more than three thousand registered users of PestLens, including 120 new pest-related articles, and added 62 new pests and 66 new pest distribution records to the Global Pest and Disease Database. These systems serve as a resource for APHIS and other plant health regulatory officials that conduct plant health risk assessments and develop inspection policies for imported goods, among other things.

Pre-Departure Inspections

APHIS inspected the baggage of more than 16 million passengers prior to departing Hawaii and Puerto Rico and intercepted approximately 249,335 prohibited items and 2,912 quarantine-significant pests in 2025. APHIS conducts commodity certification and inspection programs to facilitate interstate trade between Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the continental United States. In 2025, the program conducted 339,166 inspections of regulated agricultural commodities shipped as cargo or through Express Carriers from Hawaii and Puerto Rico utilizing canine teams to assist in these inspections. In addition, the program oversaw 9,843 cargo treatments in Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The Predeparture program continued to conduct inspections and risk mitigation to prevent the movement of prohibited pork products and byproducts from the African swine fever (ASF) protection zone in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2025, the Predeparture program successfully seized over 5,838 kilograms of pork and pork products from the Virgin Islands and 17,591 kilograms from Puerto Rico destined to the U.S. mainland, keeping the $28 billion industry safe from this devastating disease.

CBP Facilitated Port-of-Entry Inspections

In 2025, 206,006,531 passengers and pedestrians entered the United States by air, bus, ship, train, or on foot. The program conducted secondary agricultural inspections of 528,998 of the approximately 83,785,718 million passenger vehicles entering the United States from Canada and Mexico in 2025. In addition, agriculture inspectors cleared 29,380 ships and inspected more than 1.57 million cargo, mail, and express carrier shipments, intercepting 50,441 pests and issuing 79,823 Emergency Action Notifications.

Propagative Plant Inspection

Imports of nursery stock and other propagative plant materials can serve as significant pathways for invasive pests and diseases. To reduce the pest and disease risks associated with such imports, APHIS requires that certain imported plant materials enter the United States through one of 16 plant inspection stations located at or near ports of entry throughout the country and territories at major international airports and seaports, and at major crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border. Plant Health Safeguarding Specialists at these stations inspect shipments to ensure that imported plants and seeds do not contain pests and diseases of regulatory significance. In addition, they enforce the regulations that apply to the import and export of plant species protected by the Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. In 2025, inspectors cleared 26,057 imported shipments containing 1.76 billion plant units (cuttings, rooted plants, tissue culture, etc.) and over 2,157,600 kilograms of seeds of woody plants. Through these inspections, APHIS detected 4,652 pests of which 1,805 were quarantine significant pests. In addition, the stations conducted 2,947 treatments or other actions to remediate pests on more than 9.7 million plant units and 346,800 kilograms of seed.

Plant Germplasm Quarantine

APHIS' Plant Germplasm Quarantine Program (PGQP) provides quarantine services for importing plant cultivars and germplasm safely to improve U.S. agriculture and prevent foreign pathogens from entering our agricultural production areas and environment. In 2025, PGQP released from quarantine 3 bamboo clones, 50 grass clones, 5 kiwis, 40 pome fruits, 76 potato clones, 57 potato true seed lots, 145 rice seed lots, 2 stone fruit clones, 10 sugarcane clones, 16 sweet potato clones, and 8 woody ornamentals. Two of the grasses, 20 of the pomes, 1 of the stone fruits, 6 of the potato clones, 5 of the sugarcanes, and 6 of the sweet potatoes released this year resulted from therapy performed on the infected originally imported plants. Quarantine regulations prohibit entry of these high-risk crops into the United States in commercial quantities, but importers can bring in small quantities through an APHIS-approved plant quarantine program. All released clonal and seed accessions tested negative for pathogens by polymerase chain reaction and high throughput sequencing. Due to an increasing interest in importing NAPPRA (Not Admissible Pending Pest Risk Analysis), the PGQP anticipates additional imports of these plants in the future.

Pest Identification

When pests are detected during AQI activities, the program must identify them to determine if they are considered quarantine significant under APHIS regulations (i.e., if they are exotic and could pose a significant threat to U.S. plant health, if the program can allow the cargo entry into the United States, and what, if any, mitigation measures would be required.) In 2025, APHIS processed and identified approximately 99,500 AQI pest interceptions, with approximately 43,000 being quarantine significant. In 2025, APHIS continued its use of digital imaging technology for pest identification, and APHIS National Specialists performed 88 percent of their final identifications for cargo on hold based on digital images, an increase of 4 percent over 2024. APHIS will continue the use of digital imaging technology as means to improve the timeliness of pest identifications for urgent submissions (i.e., those for which cargo is on hold pending a pest identification). APHIS and CBP use the Cargo Release Authority (CRA) program to reduce the number of pests that CBP must submit to APHIS for identification, speeding up the inspection process for shipments that contain no suspect quarantine pests. Through the CRA program, APHIS provides training and job aids that allow CBP Agriculture Specialists to recognize frequently intercepted, easily identifiable, low-risk organisms, and to release

the cargo if the organism is not a quarantine significant pest. APHIS grants CRA after the Agriculture Specialist has successfully identified a particular pest a certain number of times and submitted documentation to APHIS.

Risk Analysis and Methods Development

APHIS' Plant Pest Risk Analysis (PPRA) unit develops pest risk analyses and epidemiological approaches to support and improve pest exclusion programs and decision making. In 2025, APHIS completed approximately 250 risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and other programmatic requirements. This total includes 41 analyses to open, expand, or maintain export markets for U.S. producers and 28 risk assessments for import requests from foreign countries. PPRA's work also included evaluations of 40 newly detected pests, 38 assessments of Federal Noxious Weeds or other potential weed threats of concern to the United States, 21 evaluations of off-shore pests to identify the greatest threats and help PPQ prioritize resources, 7 new or updated suitability maps for off-shore pests of concern, 4 pathway analyses and spread models, and 14 New Pest Response Guidelines to proactively prepare for emergency responses. These products identify potentially harmful plant pests and diseases and help APHIS decide what mitigating actions to take to prevent their entry into or limit their spread or economic impact within the United States.

Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC)

SITC identifies and closes smuggling pathways for prohibited agricultural products into U.S. commerce. SITC works closely with CBP to identify and target agricultural risks at the ports of entry before they enter U.S. commerce. In 2025, SITC conducted 20,571 surveys and made 6,258 seizures of prohibited agricultural items in non-Port of Entry locations. Of these seizures, 694 were made in express courier facilities and 49 in eCommerce. Those seizures totaled 236,401 pounds of prohibited and/or restricted plants, plant products, meat, and meat products valued at approximately $1.8 million. SITC initiated 2,075 product traces including 92 for sales conducted via ecommerce. Additionally, SITC conducted 4 recalls for restricted material, including noncompliant wooden handicrafts and grain products. Total seizures as a result of recalls weighed 2,103 pounds and had an estimated value of $20,964.

Treatment Program

APHIS supports safe U.S. imports of plants and plant products by facilitating and monitoring phytosanitary treatments. APHIS facilitated entry of regulated agricultural cargo through the monitoring of 13,951 fumigations (594 commodities from 78 countries), 52,521 cold treatments (23 commodities from 16 countries), 8,180 irradiation certifications (18 commodities at 11 facilities in 6 countries), and 148 heat treatments of Niger Seed to reduce pest risks on cargo that would not otherwise have been allowed entry. The program expanded cold treatment capacity at four ports of entry and added ten commodity treatment configurations at established irradiation facilities within the United States.

Permitting

APHIS requires that importers apply for permits for the importation of certain high-risk regulated plants and plant products for consumption or propagation into the United States and transit through the United States. These products include regulated plants and plant products, pests, and pathogens for diagnostic and research, biological control agents, soil, and Federal noxious weeds. Permits notify importers of commodity import requirements to ensure products and commodities making entry into the United States will not harm American agriculture. In 2025, APHIS issued 23,244 import permits for regulated plant material, organisms, and soil, and issued 10,147 letters (Letters of Denial or Letters of No Jurisdiction) in response to permit application requests. In addition, the Plant Protection and Quarantine Customer Support Center responded to 21,553 customer support calls and emails to assist stakeholders with import-related questions. APHIS continues to improve the customer experience through the development and delivery of the new eFile permitting system. The eFile system supports automated permitting for more than 60 percent of all permits and reduces the wait

time for a permit to be issued to within minutes, as compared to 2-4 weeks using the previous ePermits system.

Phytosanitary Export Certification

APHIS facilitates the export of agricultural shipments by tracking plant health import requirements for approximately 200 countries and provides certifications to U.S. exporters to help ensure that U.S. products meet other countries' requirements. More than 2,000 Authorized Certification Officials at the Federal, State, and county levels can access countries' certification requirements online and conduct inspections to issue phytosanitary certificates. These certificates facilitate the entry of commodities into foreign markets. The program employs a web-based Phytosanitary Export Database, which is free to exporters and enables them to research requirements and better prepare for shipping. In addition, this program uses a Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) database that allows exporters to apply for certificates, schedule inspections, and pay certification fees. PCIT also collects State and county cooperator fees in addition to the USDA fees for phytosanitary certificates. In 2025, APHIS collected more than $43.3 million for certificates and remitted more than $24.5 million of that amount to State and County cooperators for certificates they issued. Currently, 39 States and 35 counties use this feature. PCIT also enables APHIS to capture export application information, document inspection, and certification information, print an original phytosanitary certificate on secure paper, and generate export reports. Additionally, the Agency is continuing its effort with international counterparts exchanging phytosanitary certificates electronically. APHIS and the International Plant Protection Convention established an electronic hub that countries can access to exchange export certificates with trading partners. Studies by industry have shown that paperwork errors slow down exports, leading to the majority of costly delays. The United States began using the hub in May 2018 and is actively exchanging certificates with 119 countries now (an increase of 12 countries in 2025) with more than 478,000 phytosanitary certificates received and more than 342,000 sent (53 percent of the total number of certificates issued) in 2025. In 2025, Federal, State, and county officials issued more than 643,000 Federal export certificates for agricultural shipments. Some shipments are detained in foreign countries for various issues. In 2025, APHIS negotiated the release of more than 400 held shipments, with a value of more than $43 million. PCIT also has the capacity to issue state phytosanitary certificates for domestic movement of goods, with more than 72,000 state certificates issued in 2025. APHIS continued implementing a compliance-based program for high quality grains. This program allows U.S. shipments to meet Japan's requirement for phytosanitary certificates for shipments that were previously exempt and facilitates exports to other trading partners. APHIS now has 18 approved facilities as part of the program (an addition of one facility during 2025), and APHIS and States issued more than 6,500 certificates to 19 countries for more than 510,000 metric tons of grains with no notices of noncompliance. Based on the success of this program, industry is interested in expanding to other high quality grains.

2. Cotton Pests

The Cotton Pests Program works with growers, the cotton industry, States, and Mexico to eradicate the boll weevil (BW) and pink bollworm (PBW) from all cotton-producing areas of the United States and northern Mexico. Collectively, the BW and PBW are considered the most destructive pests of cotton worldwide. The Cotton Pests Program also maintains preparedness capabilities to address other cotton pests that could enter the United States. APHIS provides national coordination, operational oversight, and technology development, while program partners continue to provide more than two-thirds of the funding for the BW eradication effort and most of the operational funds for PBW eradication. APHIS also provides technical advice on trapping and treatment protocols to its partners in Mexico for their eradication efforts.

Boll Weevil

The BW has cost cotton growers more than $15 billion since it entered the United States in the late 19th century (National Cotton Council of America, 2021). APHIS began the initial BW eradication program along the Virginia-North Carolina border in the early 1980s. The BW eradication effort involves mapping cotton fields, using pheromone traps to evaluate weevil presence, and applying pesticides to treat infested crops. Once BW is eradicated from an area, cotton growers rely less on

insecticides, thus reducing their production costs. Over the course of the eradication efforts, the program has increased these growers' global competitiveness, primarily through reduced production costs and increasing yields.

To date, APHIS and cooperators have eradicated BW from 99.5 percent of the 11.81 million acres of planted cotton in the United States, with eradication activities continuing in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) of Texas. The LRGV is the last zone within the United States where the pest persists. As of 2025, BW only exists in ten quarantine counties in the LRGV, Texas. BW populations in neighboring Mexican cotton producing State of Tamaulipas impact eradication efforts in the LRGV. Therefore, APHIS and its cooperators in Mexico's National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (TX-BWEF) are working to eradicate BW from the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.

In 2025, APHIS continued its support for the BW Eradication Program (BWEP) in Tamaulipas, Mexico, through its agreement with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), which funds ultra-low volume malathion and aerial treatment expenses. Cooperators from TX-BWEF provided technical training and assistance to SENASICA and growers in Tamaulipas to implement the rigorous quality control program protocols. This includes providing technical assistance through the smart device application that enables employees and TX-BWEF managers to monitor trap deployment, trap servicing, and treatment activities in real time. In 2024, the program installed additional BW trap lines outside the program area in central and southern Tamaulipas. These trap lines continued in 2025, and the data have helped improve the understanding of pest movement within the state. There have been 70,581 weevil captures in the central part of Tamaulipas (outside the BWEP), yet the program observed minimal migration from this zone to the BWEP area. This success is highlighted by 28 consecutive weeks without detections, representing a significant improvement over 2024 results.

In 2025, APHIS maintained virtual monthly meetings with SENASICA to ensure open communication about BW eradication successes and challenges throughout the growing season. APHIS also implemented weekly reports shared with SENASICA that focus on trapping quality control, supporting SENASICA's efforts to ensure that growers adhere to eradication and quality control protocols, as well as comply with timelines set by national regulations and the BWEP regarding seasonal operations and the ongoing search for volunteer cotton. Due to the agreement between APHIS, SENASICA and Mexico's growers, which capped planting in 2024 to restrict available BW habitat, the treated area in Mexico decreased by 47.2 percent, dropping from 284,024 acres in 2024 to 149,982 acres in 2025. This collaboration protects U.S. cotton producers by reducing the BW population in Tamaulipas, thereby reducing pest pressure on the LRGV, improving the quality of trapping data, and enabling TX-BWEP to respond more effectively and promptly to mitigate potential risks through a binational cooperative approach. APHIS remains committed to monitoring BW to ensure the early detection of any reintroductions and to work toward the successful eradication of BW in the United States in the coming years.

Pink Bollworm

In the U.S., although the volume of acreage planted with cotton varies from year to year, the PBW commonly caused cotton losses of 20 percent or more in affected areas. In 2018, APHIS, in conjunction with industry partners, successfully eradicated PBW from all commercial cotton-producing areas in the continental United States. In that same year, the Florida Department of Food, Agricultural, and Consumer Services (FDACS) added a PBW quarantine for south Florida where wild PBW populations have persisted for over 80 years in wild cotton. In 2020, FDACS restricted planting of commercial cotton by designating south Florida as a Regulated Area for PBW. Since 2018, APHIS has supported PBW surveys to ensure that isolated PBW populations in southern Florida do not move north into the commercial cotton production areas. In 2025, there were no detections of PBW found in 59,828 acres of commercial cotton surveyed in north central Florida. These surveys will continue in 2026.

3. Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests

The Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystem Pests (FCREP) program protects U.S. agricultural crops and rangelands from the establishment or spread of invasive or economically significant pests, facilitates safe international trade and domestic commerce, preserves economic opportunities for U.S. farmers, and fosters healthy ecosystems in rangelands and natural lands. To accomplish these goals, APHIS provides national coordination, threat assessment, and strategies to prevent pests and diseases such as grasshoppers and Mormon crickets (GMC), imported fire ants (IFA), Karnal bunt, and witchweed from spreading and impacting export markets for U.S. farmers. These programs help protect resources that small, rural communities depend on for income.

Grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets (GMC)

APHIS cooperates with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, organizations, and institutions to conduct survey and suppression activities in western States to reduce damage that GMC outbreaks cause, protecting rangeland resources that serve as forage for livestock, provide habitat for wildlife and ecosystem services, and provide recreation opportunities. A 2012 University of Wyoming study found that healthy rangeland provides forage value worth $6.7 billion and overall benefits ranging from $10.7 to $21.2 billion. Uncontrolled GMC infestations can cause significant economic losses for U.S. livestock producers by reducing animal food supply in rangeland and forcing producers to buy supplemental feed or sell their livestock at reduced prices. Besides feeding on grass, GMC can devastate cultivated crops such as alfalfa, barley, corn, and wheat. Damage from grasshoppers and Mormon crickets also reduces habitat and food sources for wildlife, which can threaten animal and plant biodiversity. Infestations often cover vast acreage, and landowners or land managers may need Federal support to control them. The program provides landowners and land managers with population information, helping to predict where grasshopper populations could develop into outbreaks, and provides technical assistance about options for dealing with problem-level populations. This program helps protect 661 million acres of rangeland across the western United States by conducting suppression treatments where necessary and possible. As specified in the Plant Protection Act, the Federal government covers 100 percent of treatment costs on Federal lands; 50 percent on States lands; and 33.3 percent on private lands. Before conducting any grasshopper treatments, APHIS confirms the species of the grasshopper as some do not cause damage to rangeland and others can provide ecological benefits by eating weeds (leaving grasses for grazing livestock). At the state level, APHIS works with landowners and land managers, including the Bureau of Land Management, Tribes, ranchers, and local governments, to coordinate requested treatments and to ensure treatments conform with established environmental standards to minimize impacts on non-target species. In 2025, APHIS conducted surveys in 15 States for GMC, collecting data at 13,589 survey points. With available funding, APHIS was able to conduct treatments for small areas with high populations. The program conducted treatments in five States using FCREP funding and reimbursements from participating landowners. APHIS conducted treatments on 30,012 acres in Arizona, Idaho, and Nevada. These treatments protected rangeland forage and wildlife habitat on more than 89,253 acres. The 2025 treatment data by State and county can be found on the Grasshopper and Mormon cricket program website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ghmc-treatment-data-2025.pdf. In 2025, APHIS began updating its programmatic environmental impact statement for grasshopper and Mormon cricket treatments to include more detailed information on potential effects of the treatments on non-target species in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and USDA's NEPA regulations.

Imported Fire Ants (IFA)

IFA is a public nuisance and agricultural pest causing approximately $6.7 billion in damage to homeowners, agriculture, and natural ecosystems within the IFA Federal quarantine area, according to the Ant Pests Community funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Extension Service (https://ant-pests.extension.org). Currently, IFA infests more than 374 million acres in Puerto Rico and 14 States: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, which are under a partial or full

State quarantine. The IFA program provides regulatory guidelines to stakeholders for the treatment of regulated articles, oversight, and enforcement to help prevent the human-assisted spread of the pest.

In 2025, APHIS removed the entire area of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, from the imported fire ant quarantined area, established in 1999, after the state completed three consecutive years of negative survey results following criteria listed in the "Guidelines for Deregulation" in the Imported Fire Ant Program Manual. Additionally, the IFA program continued working with university researchers and USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to develop new pesticide treatments to prevent IFA movement on nursery stock and sod. The program supported 22 cooperative agreements in all infested states and territories for inspecting nurseries and conducting delimiting surveys. APHIS also completed a review of federal program functions, and state and industry practices related to IFA. Based on program maturity, economic estimates, IFA spread estimates, the availability of safeguarding tools, current industry practices, and evaluation of key program performance measures, APHIS is preparing to propose a change in the regulatory status for IFA from quarantine to non-quarantine in the continental United States. APHIS has developed a communication strategy to engage key stakeholders, documented unintended impacts of the proposed deregulation, and identified ways to mitigate those impacts before initiating the regulatory process.

Karnal Bunt

The FCREP program also addresses Karnal bunt, a fungal disease of wheat that was first detected in the United States in 1996. Many U.S. trading partners will not accept U.S. wheat unless it is certified to originate from areas where Karnal bunt is known not to exist. The program prevents the disease from entering the grain market system, spreading beyond the portions of two counties in the State of Arizona where it is currently found (accounting for 0.12 percent of wheat acreage in the United States). In 2025, the program removed 2,859 field acres from Karnal bunt-regulated areas on tribal (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community) and non-tribal land. The Karnal bunt national laboratory received survey samples for testing from 21 states. The program processed 313 samples collected from 161 unique counties with no positive detections during 2025. Based on this national survey, the program certifies wheat exports free of Karnal bunt, assuring trading partners about the safety of U.S. wheat exports, retaining export markets, and facilitating wheat movement into domestic and international markets. In 2024, growers across the country planted 49.6 million acres of wheat and harvested 1.8 billion bushels of wheat with a value of $12.7 billion (National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crop Values 2024 Summary and Crop Production and Quick Stats). The United States exported 21.5 million metric tons of wheat, valued at $5.8 billion in calendar year 2024 (FAS, GATS). The successful Karnal bunt quarantine and survey program facilitates wheat trade without disruptions.

Witchweed

If witchweed, a parasitic plant that can significantly damage corn, rice, sorghum, and sugarcane, were to spread throughout the Corn Belt, it could decrease crop yields for corn and sorghum by up to 10 percent and could negatively impact trade in commodities from these areas. Since program activities began in 1957, APHIS and cooperators have successfully eradicated witchweed from 99 percent of the infested areas in North Carolina and South Carolina. These activities consist of frequent field inspections, treatment of infested acres (tillage, ethylene injections to stimulate witchweed seeds to sprout, hand-pulling, and herbicide application), post-eradication surveys, and addressing any new infestations. In 2025, the program surveyed more than 31,000 acres, which are still ongoing. At the end of 2025, 2,530 acres remained regulated, including acres in two management categories — higher-risk acres where witchweed has been more recently detected and lower-risk acres approaching the point at which they can be deregulated. Because witchweed seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 14 years, and a host plant must be present for witchweed germination, year-to-year fluctuations in the number of acres infested are common. The program detected 3.5 new or reinfested acres during 2025. By preventing the spread of this damaging weed, the program protects U.S. corn production, which covered more than 90.6 million acres in 2024 valued at $64.7 billion (National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crop Values 2024 Summary).

Roseau Cane Scale

Roseau cane is an important grass species in wetland areas of the lower Mississippi Delta, Louisiana. The plant's root system provides wildlife habitat, protects the interior from storm surges, and protects riverbanks from erosion, which impacts the Mississippi River navigation channel. The invasive scale insect, Roseau cane scale, was found infesting affected stands and found to be associated with die-offs of the cane. Researchers from Louisiana State University (LSU) investigated potential stressors causing die back, including high water levels, salinity intrusion, scale insects, plant pathogens, and soil chemistry. To further investigate the possible causes of the die off and build management and restoration plans, starting in 2018 LSU formed a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional team with support from APHIS and collaboration with ARS. Research objectives include the biology and control of the scale insect that affects Roseau cane; other stressors that may affect the health of Roseau cane, including soil composition, pH levels, and nitrates; marsh grass restoration techniques; host plant resistance to scale insects; impacts of both beneficial and pathogenic microbes on Roseau cane; and restoration ecology. APHIS did not provide funding to cooperators for this effort in 2025.

Cogongrass

Cogongrass is an invasive perennial weed that is a prolific seed producer and forms an extensive rhizome network. Wind-dispersed seeds spread easily along right-of-ways and in other disturbed areas encouraging population expansion. Cogongrass readily invades pine plantations and is believed to create chemical interference that decreases pine production. Moreover, cogongrass is difficult to control because the rhizomes are drought, fire, and herbicide tolerant. APHIS estimates that this species has the potential to spread across 82 percent of the United States. APHIS did not provide funding to cooperators for this effort in 2025.

4. Pest Detection

The goal of programs funded by Pest Detection is to survey and evaluate the presence or absence of plant pests and diseases of significance in the United States. This information is the basis of APHIS' efforts that preserve economic opportunities for farmers (i.e., interstate commerce and international trade) and safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of plant pests, diseases, pathogens, and noxious weeds. The programs collaborate with Federal agencies, state departments of agriculture, Tribes, academic institutions, and industry partners in all 50 States and several U.S. Territories to conduct pest detection survey and evaluation activities.

APHIS and its cooperators carry out plant pest detection surveys through programs funded by the Pest Detection line item. APHIS provides national coordination, develops policies, guidance, and procedures for surveys, supports the availability of survey supplies such as traps and lures, and facilitates the identification of detected pests. APHIS provides Pest Detection funding to cooperators to conduct surveys through the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program and for a survey coordinator position in each participating state as part of the personnel infrastructure necessary to do surveys. APHIS and its cooperators use the resulting survey data and evaluation of detected pests to decide the regulatory or mitigation measures needed to avert economic and environmental damage, facilitate U.S. farmers' access to export markets, and ensure that the export of U.S. products meet phytosanitary conditions of importing countries.

In 2025, Pest Detection continued funding CAPS cooperators, the network of state survey coordinators, development of survey tools for high-risk pests, providing survey supplies and pest identifications, and evaluating pest detections to allow APHIS and State officials to determine whether regulatory or mitigation measures are necessary to manage the potential impacts of the pests or diseases. Specifically, APHIS completed five new likelihood of establishment maps for pests of concern, bringing the total number of maps to 38. APHIS and cooperators in 50 States and four Territories conducted Pest Detection surveys targeting a total of 208 unique pests, including 97 out of the 105 pests identified as high-risk by APHIS. When combined with surveys funded by Plant Protection Act section 7721, APHIS and cooperators targeted 104 out of the 105, or 99 percent, of identified high-risk plant pests. APHIS confirmed 16 pests new to the United States based on the data

collected during the 2025 surveys, one of which required federal regulatory action. APHIS continued evaluating and/or responding to approximately 50 pests detected in 2025 and 29 pests detected in prior years. APHIS determined 30 detected pests do not require regulatory measures and changed the regulatory status of 8 detected pests from quarantine to non-quarantine and thus, lessening the regulatory burden on stakeholders. In 2025, APHIS used the pest detection data in bilateral trade discussions, pest risk assessments supporting U.S. exports, and phytosanitary certificate issuance.

5. Plant Protection Methods Development

The Plant Protection Methods Development (PPMD) program develops scientifically viable and practical tools for exotic plant pest exclusion, detection, and management. These tools preserve economic opportunities for farmers and industries who engage in interstate commerce and international trade, and safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources from invasive plant pests. The program is essential to APHIS' mission, developing and validating the tools needed for detecting exotic pests in survey programs; molecular diagnostic tests and identification tools for accurate pest identification; integrated pest management methods, including biological control, to eliminate or manage invasive pests; and phytosanitary treatments to facilitate safe interstate and international trade. A major focus of the program is to develop and implement biological control technologies that use natural enemies-alone or in combination with other control tactics, to effectively mitigate the impacts of introduced invasive insect pests, weeds, and plant pathogens, while minimizing environmental impacts.

In 2025, the PPMD program continued developing and improving technologies, tools, and treatments for APHIS plant pest and disease programs targeting invasive species such as Mexican fruit fly, rangeland grasshoppers, mollusks, spotted lanternfly (SLF), and key cotton, citrus, and forest pests. Specifically, the program evaluated pesticides and trapping methods to enhance the detection and management of invasive land snails, identifying a safe bait suitable for urban use. The program also funded the development and validation of high-throughput nucleic acid extraction protocols for pathogens in woody plant tissues, reducing sampling and extraction bottlenecks, lowering per assay cost, and increasing APHIS' diagnostic capacity. This work enables high-volume pathogen diagnostics during plant health emergencies. Additionally, the PPMD program partially funded numerous high-value deliverables, including: interactive digital identification tools for economically significant fruit flies, tortricid pests, and longhorned beetles to support pest exclusion, early detection, and control of invasive plant pests; AI-supported geometric morphometrics methods for fast, image-based identification of quarantine pests; molecular diagnostic tools for pest thrips and the two-spotted leafhopper (a newly detected cotton pest) to support APHIS' rapid response efforts; a comprehensive inventory of rapid molecular diagnostic methods for economically important fruit fly species; and advanced methods for mass rearing and strain development of fruit flies to support suppression of these high-impact pests through sterile insect technique.

The PPMD program maintains rearing facilities for biological control agents in Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas, and Guatemala. APHIS partners with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State departments of agriculture, universities in 30 States and Territories, and 2 Native American Tribes to evaluate and establish biological control agents for invasive plants, pests, and diseases. In 2025, APHIS provided operational funding and oversight for 28 cooperative agreements with organizations in 18 different states that rear, release, and monitor the establishment and impact of 14 biological control agents that attack two invasive insects and 14 exotic weeds. APHIS provided funding for 50 cooperative agreements to evaluate potential agents, develop insect rearing methods, rear, release, and monitor known agents targeting 15 insects and 5 weeds. In addition, APHIS provided subject matter expertise, oversight, and coordination for 14 projects with other programs that have a biological control component, including emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, Japanese beetle, and box tree moth. These activities support environmentally sustainable pest management solutions that will help mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of invasive plant pest species.

The PPMD program also supports research related to invasive honeybee health. Managed honeybee colonies add at least $15 billion to the value of U.S. agriculture each year through increased yields and superior quality harvests (O'Brien, D. 2019 ARS Research Helps Unravel the Workings of a Major

Honeybee Pest). In 2025, the program continued to fund priority projects with other Federal agencies as well as universities and non-profit researchers that support managing, suppressing, and eradicating Varroa mites and other pests and diseases contributing to a decline in honeybee health. These projects included investigating a multidisciplinary approach for tackling emerging disease outbreaks, management techniques to improve overwintering success, and detection and management of the parasitic Tropilaelaps mites that feed on honeybee brood. Research efforts will continue into 2026. The PPMD program strengthens APHIS' operational readiness, reduces economic risk to U.S. producers, and protects the U.S. farmer's ability to participate in domestic and international markets.

6. Specialty Crop Pests

The goal of the Specialty Crop Pests (SCP) Program is to protect U.S. fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops from adverse impacts associated with invasive pests, such as crop damage or threats to international trade and interstate commerce. APHIS works with State, Tribal, university, and industry partners to develop and implement practices, policies, and regulations that prevent or mitigate impacts for invasive pests of Federal regulatory significance. These activities include verifying pest distribution, identifying and mitigating risk pathways to prevent long distance spread of the pests, developing and implementing diagnostic tools and pest mitigation strategies, and communicating with the public to gain support for program strategies. These efforts help U.S. farmers export their products, prevent damage to specialty crop production (helping to ensure the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables), and protect natural resources, including forests and residential landscapes. The program currently addresses several pests and diseases including exotic fruit flies, a variety of citrus pests and diseases, glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), spotted lanternfly (SLF), pale cyst nematode (PCN), navel orangeworm (NOW), and *Phytopthora ramorum*, among others. Overall, the program directly protects specialty crop production worth more than $12.7 billion in 2024 (APHIS internal analysis based on National Agricultural Statistics Service data). The program indirectly protects additional specialty crop production that was valued at $8.3 billion in 2024, by preventing the spread of these damaging pests and diseases to new areas (APHIS internal analysis based on National Agricultural Statistics Service data). Without the SCP program, trading partners might not accept a variety of U.S. fruits and vegetables. The value of trade in specialty crops that could potentially be disrupted without the SCP program was $4.2 billion in 2024, according to an internal APHIS report using data from the Foreign Agricultural Service's Global Agricultural Trade System.

Grapes

The SCP program targets several devastating pests and diseases, including glassy-winged sharpshooter, European grapevine moth (EGVM), and spotted lanternfly, that could affect grape production and impact export markets. In August 2016, APHIS declared the successful eradication of EGVM from California. However, APHIS, in collaboration with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), county departments of agriculture, and industry partners continue to monitor for EGVM. In 2025, the program placed more than 20,000 traps in 39 participating counties, using a multi-lure trap that targets four grape pests in addition to EGVM. Surveyors monitored California grape-growing areas for SLF and found no infestations.

APHIS also continued the successful, cooperative GWSS program designed to suppress populations of this pest where it is established. GWSS is a vector for Pierce's disease, which is lethal to grapevines. The program's suppression and regulatory activities work to prevent the spread of the vector and disease across California. In 2025, the program continued to conduct surveys and other regulatory activities, including inspections of nursery stock and bulk citrus for the pest in 49 California counties, and continued area-wide suppression activities in affected agricultural production areas of four California counties. With citrus growers' voluntary suppression treatments, the program covered 11,000 acres. Of the more than 30,000 shipments of nursery stock from infested areas, California county inspectors rejected three shipments due to GWSS life stages being present. Together, the EGVM and GWSS programs directly protected 793,000 acres of grape production that was worth $5.6 billion in the State of California in 2024 (National Agricultural Statistics Survey Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts 2024 Summary).

In 2025, APHIS and cooperators continued addressing SLF through Specialty Crop Pest funding, and $4.64 million in funding made available under Plant Protection Act Section 7721. This invasive pest occurs in 19 States and the District of Columbia, including Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. SLF is a phloem-feeding insect that feeds on sugar-rich sap. While SLF rarely kills its host, it does cause damage to the plant, including branch dieback, oozing wounds, and leaf wilting. When combined with other stresors, these impacts can reduce the vitality of the plant, and in rare cases, overwhelm and kill the host. SLF also excretes a sugary fluid called "honeydew" that promotes the growth of sooty mold on hosts and understory plants. SLF prefers to feed on the "tree of heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima*), a rapidly growing deciduous tree native to China that has become a widespread invasive species across North America. However, SLF also feeds on a wide range of crops and plants, including grapevines, hops, fruit trees, and hardwood trees. Thus far, grapes have been the most adversely affected agricultural commodity.

There is a strong correlation between new SLF populations and major transportation pathways, such as railroads and interstate corridors. APHIS conducts targeted treatments and, in some areas, removes SLF's preferred host plant, tree of heaven, from transportation hubs with the aim of reducing the risk of SLF spreading to new areas. APHIS and cooperators also continue to conduct treatments in high-risk sites of the infestation and to eradicate isolated infestations. In 2025, the program continued using golden pest spray oil (GPSO), an environmentally friendly control option that allows year-round control, to treat SLF egg masses to combat the pest and expanded its use to include early instar nymphs, providing more options to reduce populations around high-risk areas. The program also refined treatment rates for the chemical dinotefuran treatments after determining that the low label rate instead of the previously recommended high label rate was effective. Using the low rate allows the program to apply less chemical to the environment and save significant costs on treatment with dinotefuran, the program's most expensive chemical, while maintaining efficacy. In 2025, APHIS and cooperators treated more than 4,500 acres of high-priority sites including treating over 800 acres with contact insecticide, 1,200 acres with systemic insecticide, and 1,300 acres with herbicide targeting more than 20,000 tree of heaven in affected areas included in the program's environmental assessment (EA). APHIS and cooperators performed visual surveys in over 48,000 sites and deployed more than 1,100 traps nationwide with over 3,500 monitoring and/or servicing activities throughout the season. In 2025, the SLF Program mechanically removed over 300,000 egg masses and treated over 37,000 egg masses with GPSO across 2,500 acres. In 2025, APHIS continued developing and evaluating new methods to control SLF and tree of heaven including potential biological control organisms, such as a fungal pathogen (*Verticilium nonalfalfae*) that targets the tree of heaven, mycoinsecticides (*Beauveria bassiana*), and a parasitoid (*Dryinus sinicus*) that targets SLF nymphs, and additional treatments for egg masses. APHIS will continue to evaluate biological control agents and develop methods to rear them on a larger scale in the laboratory should they prove to be effective and specific to their targets.

Citrus

APHIS supports the citrus industry's continued ability to produce, harvest, process, and ship citrus fruits and nursery stock despite the presence of diseases such as citrus canker, citrus greening or Huanglongbing (HLB), sweet orange scab, and citrus black spot. These diseases decrease fruit quality, increase production costs for producers, and threaten export markets in areas when found. HLB is the most serious disease of citrus currently impacting Florida and Texas, and threatening the citrus crop in California and Louisiana, and most recently, Arizona, where the program recently detected the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in a residential area. The ACP is the insect vector that spreads the causal agent of the disease. Through the Citrus Health Response Program, APHIS and State partners also conduct surveys for other diseases not known to occur in the United States, including citrus leprosis and citrus variegated chlorosis.

APHIS and cooperators in citrus-producing States perform multi-pest surveys providing timely information about the presence of pests and diseases to growers and State partners. This information allows growers to take necessary actions to manage their groves and allows APHIS and States to update quarantine boundaries and regulations to prevent the spread of serious citrus pests and

diseases through the movement of regulated materials. In 2025, APHIS updated quarantine boundaries for HLB, sweet orange scab, citrus blackspot, and citrus canker due to detections outside existing quarantine areas or to align with State quarantine boundaries. In areas affected by citrus pests and diseases, APHIS' flexible regulatory protocols have minimized the impact of the quarantines on growers, who can move citrus out of quarantined areas to packinghouses if they follow mitigation procedures to prevent the disease or its insect vector from spreading. APHIS works with citrus nurseries across the United States to ensure that nursery stock produced in areas quarantined for citrus diseases is free from the pests, ensuring that clean plants are moving between States and available for citrus producers and residential use. APHIS began the notice-based process to revise the citrus nursery stock protocol to meet disease prevention goals while adding flexibility for growers, such as adding new treatment options, adjusting treatment intervals, and allowing flexibility in scheduling inspections, among other things. In 2025, APHIS also finalized a disaster response plan that APHIS can use to evaluate risk associated with damage to nurseries in the event of natural disasters such as hurricanes. It provides potential post-event options for nurseries at risk of losing interstate shipping eligibility for the impacted plants. APHIS began working with the National Plant Board to investigate potential changes to citrus nursery stock regulations that would provide options for the interstate movement of plant material following a breach to an APHIS-approved nursery structure or exposure of plants to quarantined pests and/or pathogens. In 2025, approximately 655 businesses had compliance agreements with either APHIS or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and moved regulated host materials such as citrus fruit and nursery stock under more than 590,000 certificates and limited permits (includes items such as boxes of fruit and individual plants that growers under compliance agreement can certify on site). APHIS conducted 3,778 inspections to verify compliance.

APHIS and cooperators continue extensive surveys that establish citrus black spot-free production units and low -prevalence areas for citrus canker in Florida for export packing to the European Union. APHIS also supports area-wide management efforts in Texas and California for citrus pests and diseases. In 2025, APHIS and cooperators continued to conduct risk-based surveys for HLB in residential and commercial citrus areas in California to ensure they detect the disease quickly if it is present. APHIS assists CDFA in aggressively responding to positive detections of HLB (thus far in residential areas only) and implementing an area-wide management approach for ACP population control. APHIS continued biological control efforts targeting ACP. This program, which employs a predatory wasp against ACP, augments other management methods, especially in residential areas in Arizona, California, Louisiana, and Texas, where use of chemical pesticides is undesirable. APHIS and CDFA continued surveys for citrus yellow vein clearing virus in California and confirmed three detections in Tulare County, where it was first confirmed. For the 2024-2025 season, there were 471,300 bearing acres with production worth approximately $2.8 billion (National Agricultural Statistics Survey Citrus Fruits 2024 Summary). Without APHIS' activities, citrus exports could be at risk each year. The 2024 value of U.S. citrus exports totaled approximately $890 million (Foreign Agricultural Service Global Agricultural Trade System).

HLB Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group

Between 2014 and 2019, the HLB MAC funded a total of 105 projects focused on strategies for vector control, therapies for infected trees, sustainability of new plantings, early detection technologies, best management practices for citrus groves, and support for the development of HLB-resistant citrus varieties. In 2019, the HLB MAC shifted focus towards determining the best management practices for producing citrus under the threat and pressure of HLB. APHIS first supported the Florida Citrus Research and Field Trials (CRaFT) project to conduct field evaluations of strategies that showed previous scientific evidence of success and then initiated similar projects in California and Texas. These long-term projects evaluate interactions between methods, treatments, environments, rootstock/scion combinations, and growing practices in the different conditions in each State. Florida's CRaFT program is treating more than 86,000 acres (12,000 of them supported with HLB MAC funds) of mature citrus trees with novel therapies as part of the field trials; in California, the program is supporting growers in adopting strategies to mitigate ACP presence in groves covering 6,577 acres; and in Texas, the program is evaluating strategies including different approaches to grove floor

management and ACP management on 1,280 acres. In 2025, APHIS provided HLB MAC funds to Florida and Texas for ongoing CRaFT projects and provided funding to maintain the CRaFT dashboard and to rebuild the dashboard on a more efficient and cost-effective platform. APHIS also funded several individual projects including, a project that will use Clustered, Regularly Interspaced, Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) gene-editing technology to develop resistance to HLB in grapefruit, a project supporting a field trial for potential treatments using symbiont technology (novel delivery systems for antimicrobial treatments) and a project balancing growth and defense phytohormones for optimal yield and productivity of citrus.

Tree Fruit and Nursery Stock

APHIS protects a wide variety of specialty crops (particularly tree fruit and citrus) through exotic fruit fly exclusion and detection activities targeting Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly), Oriental fruit fly, and other species. The program has reduced the number, and mitigated the effect of Medfly and Mexfly incursions for many years by conducting preventive releases of sterile fruit flies to disrupt population establishment in at-risk areas, detecting and responding to outbreaks when they occur, and developing improved methods for survey and control.

Medfly is one of the most destructive agricultural pests in the world, attacking more than 300 cultivated and wild fruits and vegetables. One of the Agency's key strategies is maintaining internationally recognized Medfly free areas in Petén, Guatemala and in Belize (approximately 57,529 square miles combined), and managing pest populations in southern Mexico and neighboring areas of Guatemala to prevent northward movement of Medfly towards the United States through the international MOSCAMED program. The United States, Mexico, and Guatemala established MOSCAMED through an international treaty approximately 50 years ago. In 2025, the program operated a 61,912-square-mile surveillance network and treated targeted areas covering 224 square miles with GF-120 bait sprays, reducing Medfly captures by 95 percent compared to 2024. In Petén, Guatemala, targeted treatments on 400 acres eradicated a wild detection, preventing pest spread. MOSCAMED produced 41.35 billion sterile Medflies during the fiscal year and released 34.3 billion across Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico. Of the total production, MOSCAMED provided 7.05 billion sterile flies for U.S. preventive release program efforts in California and Florida. MOSCAMED provided an additional 977 million sterile flies using emergency funds to California for emergency eradication activities. The program supplied Mexico's Chiapas facility with 2,454 liters of heat-treated eggs, enabling sustained production of over 700 million sterile pupae per week. The program maintained access to 95 percent of more than 8,000 priority control sites through partnerships and outreach to stakeholders and rural communities. Technical innovations improved operational efficiencies, for example, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) integration reduced bait spray costs by 57 percent over fixed-wing aircraft and simplified permissions and facilitated chemical applications over remote areas, and the program used surveillance data to reconfigure flight lines for more efficient operations. These results underscore the program's continued success in maintaining Medfly-free zones, suppressing regional populations, and safeguarding U.S. agriculture through innovation, efficiency, and strong partnerships.

Since 2015, when the first Medfly outbreak occurred in the Caribbean, APHIS has worked with partner countries in the region to improve surveillance for Medfly and other exotic fruit flies. In 2025, seven Caribbean countries participated in this effort with active trapping and surveillance programs. APHIS and MOSCAMED assisted the Dominican Republic for a response to a Medfly outbreak during 2024, providing 72 million sterile flies (funded through the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria).

Domestically, APHIS and State cooperators maintain the cooperative Preventive Release Program, which releases sterile fruit flies in high-risk areas to prevent any introduced Medflies or Mexflies from reproducing and establishing a population in the United States. In the Los Angeles area in California, APHIS and cooperators release 120 million sterile Medfly per week, and 68 million per week in four port areas in Florida. To protect Texas and California from Mexfly incursions, APHIS releases sterile Mexflies in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV), Texas, and in the Tijuana and Reynosa areas of northern Mexico. In support, the MOSCAMED program produced 4.68 billion sterile pupae for Texas

and 1.25 billion sterile pupae for the northern Mexico programs. APHIS and cooperators also maintain a detection network of more than 140,000 traps in California, Florida, New York, Puerto Rico, Texas, and other States vulnerable to exotic fruit fly incursions. When outbreaks occur, APHIS and cooperators implement immediate emergency response activities to eradicate them. In 2025, the program continued to respond to fruit fly outbreaks in California and Texas, including four new outbreaks in California and ten in Texas. Using emergency funds transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation, APHIS and cooperators completed the eradication of two outbreaks in California that were initially detected in 2024 and four of the Mexfly outbreaks in Texas that were initially detected in 2024. In 2025, APHIS continued releasing approximately 107 million sterile male Mexfly per week in the LRGV.

In 2025. APHIS also continued to address European cherry fruit fly (ECFF) in northwestern New York. APHIS and cooperators in New York enforce regulations within the 7,353 square-mile quarantine to reduce the risk of human-assisted spread of ECFF to other cherry-producing areas. APHIS conducted surveillance along the border of the quarantine and detected ECFF in one county outside, but adjoining, the current quarantined area. APHIS will expand the quarantine in 2026 to include the newly affected county, timed to coincide with the State quarantine expansion. Cherry producers can mitigate the damage the pest may cause to crops through current management practices. APHIS regulatory measures allow the movement of cherries out of the quarantine areas using float tests in the orchard and at the processing plants—when the cherries are submerged in water, fruit fly life stages float to the surface—to determine whether any ECFF are present in shipments. These float tests reduce trapping requirements for growers in their fields while meeting the goal of preventing ECFF from spreading through cherry shipments.

APHIS and cooperators also work to address navel orangeworm (NOW). In 2025, APHIS and cooperators in California continued implementation of the NOW areawide program, targeting the moth, which is a serious pest of tree nut crops including almonds, pistachios, and walnuts. Adult moths lay eggs through gaps in the nut hulls or shells, where newly hatched larvae feed and contaminate the nuts with insect waste and secondary fungal spores that may produce poisonous aflatoxins. APHIS uses its rearing facility in Phoenix, Arizona to produce sterile NOW moths and ships them to California where APHIS releases the sterile moths by airplane over participating pistachio and almond orchards.

In 2025, APHIS and cooperators at CDFA and industry restructured the NOW program by reducing zone sizes from 640 acres to 160 acres, effectively quadrupling the number of zones while retaining the same 2,560 acres for NOW release and 2,560 acres for comparative non-release zones. This approach increased the number of participating growers and will provide a statistically robust data set. APHIS produced and released approximately 750,000 sterile NOW moths per day for release over the participating almond and pistachio orchards. APHIS worked with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and industry stakeholders to finalize and execute a protocol to assess NOW damage for pistachios, complimenting the damage-assessment protocol developed for almonds. Both protocols provide technical guidance to sample and process almonds and pistachos for NOW damage, while incorporating different harvest methods specific to each commodity. APHIS and cooperators continue to evaluate the impact of the release of sterile moths and the other integrated pest management measures on NOW in tree nut crops.

APHIS protects natural resources and nursery stock production and trade by limiting the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* from quarantine areas and affected nurseries through regulatory strategies and adoption of mitigations and changes to cultural practices. *P. ramorum*, which causes sudden oak death, can be moved through host nursery stock and can affect a variety of forest trees. The disease is present in coastal northern California (affecting 16 counties in the State) and a small area in Curry County, Oregon. In 2025, Oregon State officials continued surveys related to a positive detection outside the quarantined area. APHIS will update quarantine regulations to include the new area when the delimiting surveys are completed. Because of the presence of *P. ramorum* in the surrounding environment, nurseries within the quarantine area that ship interstate must meet annual certification survey and sampling requirements to prevent the movement of potentially infested material. The program also regulates nurseries outside the quarantine area that have been confirmed positive for *P.*

ramorum in plants, water, or other regulated articles. The nurseries must remain free of *P. ramorum* for three consecutive years to be deregulated. All positive interstate shipping nurseries must participate in a compliance program using protocols to eliminate the pathogen and implement required mitigations focused on critical control points to reduce the risk of reintroduction. During 2025, 25 nurseries participated in the program. Twelve nurseries were added to the program, and APHIS released three nurseries which completed program requirements.

Through all these activities, APHIS directly protects nursery stock production worth approximately $1.3 billion in 2019 (the most recent year that data is available), and tree fruit production worth more than $2.7 billion in 2024 (APHIS internal analysis based on National Agricultural Statistics Service data). By preventing pests and diseases like exotic fruit flies and *P. ramorum* from spreading to new areas, the program indirectly protects approximately $5.3 billion in fruit and nursery stock production (APHIS internal analysis based on National Agricultural Statistics Survey data).

Potatoes

APHIS addresses two major potato pests, pale cyst nematode (PCN) in Idaho and the golden nematode (GN) in New York, that feed on the roots of high-value crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, and eggplants. If pest populations are left unchecked, they can reduce crop yields by 20 to 70 percent. APHIS and cooperators have confined each to a relatively small area and continue survey and regulatory efforts to protect potatoes that are grown in all 50 States and exported from 18 States.

PCN has not been detected outside of Idaho, and fumigations of infested fields in Idaho have reduced PCN populations by 99 percent since the pest was first detected in 2006. In 2025, APHIS processed 3,421 samples for the PCN eradication effort in Idaho and 7,846 samples for detection surveys in Idaho (108 of the samples) and six other States (7,738 samples); the program conducted 1,439 regulatory treatments of farm equipment to prevent the spread of PCN out of regulated areas. Also, in 2025, the program released 232 acres from PCN regulation in Idaho, including the first PCN-regulated field in the history of the program. There are currently 31 PCN-infested fields, and the current regulated area is 6,266 acres (down from 6,495 acres at the beginning of 2025), of which 3,420 acres are infested fields, and 2,846 acres are associated fields (those connected through use of shared farm equipment or other means of pest spread). The infested fields are in an 8.5-mile radius that spans a portion of northern Bingham County and southern Bonneville County. In 2025, the program continued eradication treatments on five infested fields, totaling approximately 538 acres. In the treated fields that no longer show PCN viability, according to a greenhouse bioassay test, producers can plant potatoes with continued monitoring by APHIS and cooperators to ensure PCN is not present. During the greenhouse bioassay (three rounds of greenhouse bioassay that is the equivalent of three crop cycles), the program tests the viability of any PCN nematodes found in the soil. If the nematodes are found to be non-viable (they fail to reproduce under favorable conditions in the presence of a host), the fields from which they came are eligible to immediately return to potato production at the landowners' discretion. The PCN program requires infested fields that return to potato production to undergo full-field surveys following each of three subsequent potato crops to check for viable PCN populations. These fields remain regulated but benefit from reduced sanitation requirements. The fields are sampled following harvest and analyzed for the presence of viable nematodes. The program is working with ARS, the University of Idaho, and other cooperators to develop PCN-resistant potato varieties. APHIS has funded several projects on PCN-resistant potato varieties through Plant Protection Act Section 7721 for this long-term effort.

In 2025, APHIS and New York cooperators continued an effective survey and regulatory program targeting golden nematode, with a focus on deregulation of all eligible land. Adopting strategies used in the more recently established PCN program, the GN program is focusing on fields that are either infested or associated with infested fields rather than political boundaries such as townships. Since 2010, APHIS has been working closely with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NY AGM), and has removed more than 1.2 million acres from the GN regulated area in New York, allowing several farmers to grow their crops without restrictions. In 2025, the program removed 1,004 acres from regulation in New York. APHIS continues to manage an active control and mitigation program to prevent GN from spreading from the remaining regulated acres in portions of eight New

York counties, including 5,945 acres that are infested with GN. The program enforces regulations designed to prevent the spread of GN and requires sanitation treatments of farm equipment and other items moving out of the quarantined area. In 2025, the program processed 905 soil samples for the GN deregulation effort in New York and 6,878 total samples for detection (export) for New York (1,697) and two other states (5,181). The program conducted 463 regulatory treatments of farm and earthmoving equipment to prevent the spread of GN out of regulated areas and certified 10 shipments of potatoes to Canada, totaling 500,000 pounds. APHIS has cooperated with ARS, NY AGM, and Cornell University to develop GN-resistant potato varieties for several decades. The program has developed a total of 45 GN-resistant varieties. Because the pest can overcome resistance, it is necessary to continue development of new GN-resistant varieties.

Together, these programs protected 925,000 acres of U.S. potatoes, valued at approximately $5.1 billion in 2024 (National Agricultural Statistics Service). In 2024, the United States exported more than 559,000 metric tons ($320.6 million) of fresh and seed potatoes (Foreign Agricultural Service Global Agricultural Trade System).

Canine Detection and Surveillance

In 2025, APHIS developed canines for pest surveillance efforts, focusing on Asian longhorned beetle, (ALB), box tree moth (BTM), coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), giant African snail (GAS), Japanese beetle (JB), and SLF. APHIS continued to support Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's Canine Production Sciences program for the ALB, SLF, and JB projects. As a result, Auburn University transferred ALB trained detector canines in 2025 and plans to transfer one SFL trained detector canine. Due to challenges with the JB project (problems securing training materials and successful larval confirmation in field trials), APHIS decided to limit the project to train and test the use of canines to detect JB larvae to proof of concept only and to end the project without taking possession of the canines.

From July through September 2025, APHIS deployed three ALB detector canine teams to Massachusetts and New York to determine the support that canine teams can provide to the ongoing ALB eradication efforts and to gather data to develop performance metrics for the effectiveness of detector dog usage in the program. The canines performed well in the field. APHIS is retraining the current ALB canines for New World Screwworm prevention efforts along the U.S.-Mexico border, but APHIS will work with Auburn to train additional canine teams for ALB detection efforts.

In 2025, APHIS' National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) trained two new canines to detect SLF for the Tennessee Department of Agricultures (TDA), two canines to detect CRB in Hawaii, and one new canine to detect GAS in Florida. The SLF canine teams, deployed in July 2025, found new confirmed detections of SLF in Sumner and Jefferson Counties. APHIS deployed a fruit fly (Mexfly) detector canine to assist with the fruit fly emergency program in Texas. The program also continued two projects to develop canine training tools based on the odor profile of the target pest (GAS and fruit flies). NDDTC also supported training and recertification for several stakeholders, including offering three agricultural detector canine handler trainings to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and completed the annual recertification of canines for CDFA and FDACS.

7. Tree & Wood Pests

The Tree and Wood Pests (TWP) program protects forests, private working lands, and natural resources from the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), emerald ash borer (EAB), and spongy moth. Numerous native hardwood tree species that are common throughout the United States are vulnerable to these pests. APHIS cooperates with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, organizations, and institutions to conduct survey, regulatory, control, and outreach activities in 48 States to manage or, in some cases, eradicate these pests. Conserving forests enhances the economic vitality of rural communities by supporting forest-related industries, recreation and tourism, and the overall livability of communities. The value of forest products that APHIS protects is over $200 billion (U.S. Forest Service, 2024). In addition, trees in residential areas lower cooling bills, filter

pollutants from the air, decrease runoff, and improve residents' quality of life (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Asian longhorned beetle

The ALB threatens forest resources nationwide, as roughly 30 percent of U.S. trees are potential ALB hosts. The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers determined the potential value loss of forested areas from ALB as greater than $2 trillion nationwide. In the eastern United States alone, 4 million jobs depend on forests vulnerable to ALB. The program's ALB eradication activities prevent multi-billion-dollar losses to the maple syrup, timber, tree nursery, trade, and tourism industries.

APHIS' eradication strategy for ALB includes surveys, regulatory inspections, quarantine restrictions, removal of infested and high-risk trees, and chemical treatment applications. APHIS conducts several cycles of surveys to determine the scope of infestation, establish a quarantine area, identify trees to remove or treat, determine if the pest has spread outside of the established quarantine area, and determine when to release an area from quarantine. A survey cycle, which is the time it takes to complete a survey of a given area, can take several years depending on the size of the area, the density and type of trees in the area, and type of landscape or land use. APHIS can declare eradication in a given area after a minimum of four years of not finding ALB between the last detection of the pest and the completed final survey cycle. APHIS provides ongoing support to evaluate new methods and protocols to combat ALB and tailors project responses to site-specific conditions. Currently, each regulated area is at a different stage of eradication and faces unique, local conditions.

ALB was first detected in Brooklyn, New York, in August 1996, and was later found in other states. The program has successfully eradicated ALB from Chicago, Illinois; Boston, and Holden, Massachusetts; Batavia, Stonelick, Jersey City, Middlesex County, and Union County, New Jersey; Islip, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan, New York; and Monroe Township and East Fork State Park, Ohio. In 2025, the program conducted activities in regulated areas of Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and South Carolina. In 2025, the program surveyed a total of 378,757 trees across the four regulated areas.

In 2025, the program continued ongoing survey efforts in Worcester County, Massachusetts, surveying 78,826 trees in densely wooded, hard-to-access areas. Over the program's lifetime, the program has surveyed more than 11 million trees in the state and removed 36,263 high-risk host and infested trees in this area. In 2025, no new infested trees in Massachusetts were found. In the Long Island, New York quarantine, the program surveyed 49,389 trees and found four new infested trees. The program removed all infested trees in New York and treated 425 non-infested host trees within a quarter mile of the infested trees as a preventative measure to protect them from infestation. Over the program's existence, the program has surveyed a cumulative 1.9 million trees in Long Island and removed more than 8,848 trees. In 2025, the program surveyed over 187,782 trees in Tate Township, Ohio, found 37 new infested trees, and removed 28 infested and high-risk host trees. Surveying and infested tree removal efforts continued in the remaining 43.9 square miles of the Ohio quarantine area. The program has surveyed a cumulative 5.1 million trees in Ohio and removed approximately 118,460 since the initial detection in 2011. Efforts in South Carolina focused on ALB surveys in the southern and eastern parts of the quarantine area and the removal of infested and high-risk host trees in the core area of the infestation. This regulated area includes forested and wetland areas, making access for surveys and tree removals challenging. In September 2025, the program confirmed ALB 15 miles outside the existing regulated area in South Carolina in a commercial area of Mount Pleasant. The program is conducting a grid survey, inspecting at least 20 maple trees (ALB's preferred host) per square mile to determine the extent of the infestation and how to adjust quarantine boundaries. In 2025, 62,790 trees were surveyed and 3,281 trees removed. In South Carolina, the program has surveyed 543,341 trees since 2020 and removed approximately 26,292 infested and high-risk host trees.

As part of a pilot ALB detector dog training program, APHIS deployed two canine-handler teams to New York and one team to Massachusetts to conduct field surveys in low- to no-ALB population quarantine areas. This work will help to identify challenges the canine teams encounter in the field and

identify potential metrics for ensuring the dogs can detect ALB at low levels. The goal is to use the canine teams to enhance detections in areas where ALB could be difficult to find through visual surveys.

On July 10, APHIS published a Federal Order to remove 12.3 square miles of the ALB quarantine in Worcester County, Massachusetts. The rescinded area includes the Town of Holden, Massachusetts. This is the first partial removal of regulated area from the initial Massachusetts quarantine enacted in 2008. APHIS and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will continue to regulate and conduct eradication activities in the remaining 97.7 square miles under ALB quarantine in Worcester County.

On March 14, APHIS issued a Federal Order to remove 5.2 square miles of the ALB quarantine in Clermont County, Ohio. The rescinded area includes 1.6 square miles of Tate Township and 3.6 square miles of East Fork State Park. This is the second partial removal of regulated areas from the initial Ohio quarantine area enacted in 2011. APHIS and the Ohio Department of Agriculture will continue to regulate and conduct eradication activities in the remaining 43.8 square miles under ALB quarantine in Tate and Williamsburg Townships.

Emerald ash borer

EAB was first detected in Michigan in 2002 and has since been detected in 36 additional States and the District of Columbia. EAB has spread beyond what a regulatory program can control. As a result, APHIS removed the Federal domestic EAB quarantine in 2021 after a review process with stakeholders. APHIS continues to operate EAB as a management and biological control program. The program's biological control initiative is designed to effectively manage EAB populations. It provides a promising strategy, using four species of parasitic stingless wasps (parasitoids) for long-term EAB management. In 2025, APHIS provided over 400,000 program parasitoids to 136 sites (one in Canada and 135 in the United States). Parasitoid releases took place across 28 States and one Province. To date, the EAB program has cumulatively released a total of more than 9 million parasitoids in 491 of more than 1,480 EAB-infested counties in 37 States and the District of Columbia. APHIS and cooperators continue to assess the impacts of the parasitic wasps on EAB populations and tree health at release sites and nearby areas. Field evaluations indicate the EAB parasitoids and other EAB natural enemies are protecting young and regenerating ash from EAB. In 2025, APHIS and cooperators published a paper demonstrating the effectiveness of integrated pest management (IPM) of EAB in urban forests by combining parasitoid releases with pesticide trunk injections and are now replicating the study in natural forests. In addition, APHIS provided federal and university researcher cooperators with 22,780 EAB eggs to support scientific research, up from 7,640 the prior year. APHIS also provided 572 larval sentinel logs for federal, university, and state cooperators to monitor EAB parasitoids for various research projects. This research contributes to advancing the scientific knowledge of EAB and parasitoid biology and behavior.

Spongy Moth

Spongy moth is a destructive pest of North America's most beautiful and popular deciduous trees, including maples, oaks, and elms. This pest is established in all or parts of 20 northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Midwestern States, as well as the District of Columbia. APHIS and State cooperators conduct regulatory activities in the quarantine area to prevent the human-assisted spread of the pest and establishment of spongy moth populations in non-quarantine areas. These efforts include inspection, treatment, and certification of regulated articles for movement from quarantine to non-quarantine (non-infested) areas. The program issues compliance agreements and conducts public outreach to ensure that businesses and residents in infested areas comply with regulations to prevent long-distance spread of the pest. Spongy moth also spreads naturally into areas bordering the quarantined zone. APHIS and State partners monitor the transition zone along the 1,200-mile-long border of the quarantine area to ensure that newly infested areas are inspected through trapping and added to the quarantined zone and regulated effectively. Working with the U.S. Forest Service and the Slow-the-Spread Foundation, APHIS and cooperators have greatly reduced the rate of spongy moth spread and eradicated isolated populations, preventing this pest from becoming a larger issue. In 2025, APHIS and State cooperators continued to conduct spongy moth surveys to detect, delimit, and

eradicate any isolated populations. APHIS supported surveys in 18 states to determine if any adjustments were needed to the quarantine boundary. In 2025, the program and its partners continued precision delimiting surveys related to spongy moth detections in California, Washington, and Oregon, which are outside the generally affected area. Treatments and continuing delimiting surveys will be necessary in 2026. In addition, in 2025, APHIS, the U.S. Forest Service, and Washington state conducted the second of three years of post-treatment delimitation surveys following a spongy moth eradication treatment in a different area of Washington state. Results of this second-year delimitation response determined that no moths were detected in the treated area. In 2025, APHIS in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection added La Crosse County, Wisconsin to the list of quarantined areas after moth populations in the county reached the threshold to trigger quarantine expansion.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress – Wildlife Services:

1. Wildlife Damage Management

APHIS provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist. Specifically, APHIS works to protect agriculture, human health and safety, property, and natural resources from disease and damage caused by wildlife. Cooperator participation and support is critical to the success of the Wildlife Damage Management Program. APHIS' wildlife biologists coordinate activities in every State and in three Territories with Federal, State and Territorial agencies, Tribes, local governments, private entities, farmers, ranchers, and others.

Agriculture

Feral swine are a harmful and destructive invasive species that cause significant damage to property, agricultural animal health and crops, natural resources, public health, and native ecosystems. The Agency's damage management strategy for feral swine provides resources and expertise at a national level, while allowing flexibility to manage operational activities from a local or State perspective. APHIS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) estimated the value of agricultural resources safeguarded by the establishment of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program to be approximately $40 billion since 2014.

Collaboration with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities, universities, and organizations, along with landowners and others experiencing damage, is essential for controlling the spread of feral swine and suppressing or, where possible, eliminating populations. In 2025, APHIS managed the removal of feral swine across approximately 194 million acres in 29 States and 3 Territories. Since the establishment of the APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in 2014, APHIS and partners have successfully eliminated feral swine from 10 States (Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont) and recognizes 2 additional states in detection status (Washington and Wisconsin). A state in detection status is declared eliminated after the State completes a minimum of two years of monitoring with no additional sightings.

In collaboration with our partners, APHIS collected more than 15,000 samples from individual feral swine in 2025 to monitor diseases of national concern with implications for domestic livestock and public health, including 4,575 serology samples for influenza A and H5 antibody testing, and 292 samples for polymerase chain reaction testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza. Additionally, APHIS continued to maintain its National Feral Swine Genetic Archive to assess the human movement of feral swine from source populations and provide support to states enforcing laws prohibiting the movement of feral swine. Finally, APHIS conducted outreach and stakeholder engagement, promoting *Squeal on Pigs!*, an application that relies on partners, cooperators, and local communities to report feral swine sightings or mortalities in States with low feral swine populations.

While predators serve a vital role in ecosystems, they pose challenges for agriculture producers in the United States. Livestock losses attributed to predators cost producers approximately $232 million annually, according to surveys by National Agriculture Statistics Service. APHIS prevents and reduces livestock predation through technical assistance (education and outreach) to producers, and operational management programs. APHIS and cooperators often share the cost of APHIS-conducted

livestock protection activities. In 2025, APHIS conducted 97 predator management workshops attended by more than 19,000 individuals from 12 States.

In collaboration with State wildlife agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Tribes, APHIS conducts wolf damage management programs and provides additional services to capture and mark wolves for research and population monitoring. APHIS provides technical assistance to producers on preventative measures to supplement direct control activities, which producers then implement themselves. The Agency continues to develop and refine nonlethal methods to decrease wolf conflicts. Upon request, and with appropriate authorizations, APHIS may remove depredating wolves to resolve conflicts by providing direct control assistance for stakeholders.

Nonlethal wildlife damage management often involves modifying human activities and practices, manipulating habitats, and other actions to change the behavior of wildlife or reduce its presence and impact. APHIS routinely recommends nonlethal methods via technical assistance or applies them directly to reduce a variety of wildlife conflicts across the country. In 2025, Congress provided APHIS funding to promote nonlethal methods to reduce large carnivore-livestock conflict and beaver damage. Nonlethal livestock protection is primarily delivered in the form of range riding, fladry, fencing, livestock guardian dogs, and husbandry practices. Nonlethal beaver damage management routinely involves installing water manipulation devices to reduce beaver damage or physical relocation of beavers in some instances. The Agency continued efforts to increase and expand use of nonlethal methods in 12 States to protect livestock from large carnivore predators and reduce beaver damage to a variety of resources. The Agency has also supported corresponding research from the NWRC to evaluate these methods and cooperator perceptions of nonlethal tools.

Black vulture populations have increased in both abundance and range during the past 30 years. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, enforced by FWS, protects black vultures, which prey on livestock. Under this Act, the public cannot kill, destroy, or remove migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs without a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit from FWS. APHIS works collaboratively with FWS to recommend short and long-term options to provide producers with relief from damage. If APHIS officials determine removing specific vultures is necessary, APHIS will assist producers in obtaining a depredation permit from FWS. With cooperator funding, APHIS conducted control activities in 22 States in 2025 removing and/or dispersing black vultures to protect agriculture, human health and safety, and property (including cattle and sheep, as well as buildings, vehicles, and utilities, among others), in addition to providing technical assistance to guide private management efforts.

Fish-eating birds, especially double-crested cormorants, can have major impacts on the U.S. aquaculture industry. Annual aquaculture production in the United States is valued at $1.5 billion in 2018 (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service), and research from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture estimates that the catfish aquaculture industry incurs an average annual loss of $64.7 million in costs associated with bird damage and damage prevention. APHIS provides operational and technical assistance to aquaculture producers, particularly on roost management of double-crested cormorant, harassment of fish-eating birds on catfish facilities, and helping farmers acquire depredation permits from FWS. Operational and technical assistance is concentrated at producer-operated aquaculture facilities in the lower Mississippi valley and southeastern United States in the fall and winter. In 2025, APHIS removed approximately 16,000 and dispersed 37,000 double-crested cormorants to protect aquaculture.

The National Wildlife Disease Program (NWDP) promotes safe agricultural trade by protecting the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems and reducing levels of incurred losses to agricultural and natural resources. NWDP participates in wildlife disease monitoring and surveillance in all regions of the United States. Large-scale projects include wildlife surveillance for avian influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and plague. Activities on emerging pathogens are routinely implemented as well, with recent projects on chronic wasting disease in wildlife, African Swine Fever preparedness and response, and coordination of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 reporting.

Human Health and Safety

Rabies is one of the oldest known viral diseases, yet it remains a significant wildlife management and public health challenge. APHIS is the lead Federal agency to prevent the further spread of wildlife rabies, with the goal of eliminating specific rabies variants in the United States using oral rabies vaccination (ORV). In 2025, APHIS and cooperators distributed more than 11.8 million ORV baits to combat raccoon rabies in 14 eastern states. In 2025, APHIS and the Texas Department of State Health Services distributed more than 1 million ORV baits in Texas to prevent the reemergence of rabies in coyotes and gray foxes along the border with Mexico. These activities are a continuation of the strategic distribution of more than 262 million ORV baits nationwide since the National Rabies Management Program began in 1995.

Since 2005, APHIS has conducted more than 135,000 tests using a rapid rabies diagnostic field procedure, documenting more than 2,800 rabies cases that, in turn, facilitated science-based wildlife rabies management strategies. In 2025, APHIS collected more than 4,000 raccoon blood samples in 14 states to estimate rabies antibody levels in ORV zones. Analyzing rabies antibody levels provides a key indicator of program success by allowing APHIS to assess ORV uptake and confirm that raccoons are generating the intended immunological response.

Increased air traffic, faster and quieter aircraft, increased populations of some Federally protected species of birds, and other wildlife all impact the safety of aircraft, particularly in rural communities. Wildlife collisions with aircraft cost the U.S. civil and military aviation industry approximately $1 billion annually. With funding provided by airports, and other Federal, State, and local cooperators, APHIS works to reduce wildlife strike hazards to protect people and aircraft. APHIS estimates the annual value of damage prevented from wildlife strikes exceeds $100 million. In 2025, APHIS mitigated wildlife hazards by assisting approximately 800 civil and military airports worldwide, which included around 130 Department of Defense (DoD) airports in domestic and international settings.

Natural Resources

Non-native, invasive animals can devastate ecosystems. APHIS focuses on eliminating damage from brown tree snakes (BTS), feral swine, nutria, and other invasive species. In Guam, BTS have eliminated most species of native birds, lizards, and bats, and continue to cause power outages leading to public safety issues and losses in excess of $4.5 million annually. In 2025, with funding from other Federal Departments and the Guam Department of Agriculture, APHIS continued the multi-agency partnership to prevent BTS movement from Guam to other Pacific Islands, Hawaii, and the continental United States. This resulted in BTS control devices at all civilian and military ports of exit, inspections on military exercise material in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and a 100 percent inspection rate goal for all departing cargo, vehicles, and aircraft. It is through this partnership that the Agency inspected approximately 219,400 items, removed nearly 9,200 BTS in 2025 via programs at the DoD ports and on-base housing, civilian ports, shipping facilities, and the Guam power substations and transmission lines.

Nutria damage wetlands, agricultural crops, and structural foundations such as dikes and roads. This non-native rodent has destroyed tens of thousands of acres of marshlands critical to the health of Chesapeake Bay. Between 2002 and 2015, APHIS, in cooperation with the FWS and other Federal and State agencies, and private landowners, removed nutria from more than 250,000 acres of coastal marshland on the Delmarva Peninsula (encompassing Maryland's eastern shore, lower Delaware and Virginia's eastern shore). In 2023, the Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Program was able to officially declare nutria eradicated from the Delmarva wetlands east of Chesapeake Bay. To protect these historic gains, the FWS provided funding to establish an updated nutria range map in Virginia and to remove populations detected in an Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) zone north of the James River that posed an immediate threat to the western marshes of Chesapeake Bay. In 2025, the Agency detected a new population in the EDRR zone on a military reservation on James River. APHIS initiated eradication of this population and is in the process of removing remaining nutria going into 2026. APHIS has documented significant range expansions of nutria westward and northward in southeastern Virginia into watersheds not previously impacted. APHIS has identified source

populations south of James River that threaten the EDRR zone and will target them for removal as resources allow.

APHIS partners with various Federal and State resource agencies, private organizations, and community groups to protect bird species covered under the Endangered Species Act, by preventing predation from other birds and mammals to nests, eggs, and juveniles. APHIS has estimated damages or damage threats to birds, including threatened and endangered species, to be more than $70 million annually.

2. Wildlife Services Methods Development

Wildlife Services Methods Development (WSMD) funding supports research on effective and socially responsible methods to manage conflicts between people and wildlife to protect agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety. WSMD provides research in support of the Agency's project areas such as feral swine and other invasive species, agriculture protection, rabies, wildlife disease, and population and reproduction control, among others. APHIS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) provides the only dedicated Federal leadership in developing methods to manage wildlife-related damage problems. Scientists work on a variety of wildlife damage management problems through discovery, development, and technology transfer and the use of products and management methods to support Wildlife Services operational programs as well as public and private partners. The majority of NWRC studies involve partnerships with State and Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, tribal governments, and private sector businesses. In 2025, the NWRC had 161 active studies, produced 130 publications, collaborated with more than 85 entities, and had more than 190,000 downloads from Digital Commons, a public platform for sharing research documents.

Agriculture

The WSMD Program develops methods to safeguard livestock from predators, manage invasive species, and minimize the impact of wildlife diseases. The following are examples of efforts to protect American agriculture, which includes protecting resources related to farming and ranching such as livestock, crops, animal products and other associated industries.

The APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program protects agricultural and natural resources, property, animal health, and human health and safety from feral swine damage. In 2025, APHIS continued feral swine efforts by expanding surveillance, collaborating with international partners to prevent transboundary movement, and monitoring and responding to emergent populations in States where eradication has previously been successful. The NWRC improves the efficiency of existing control methods and develops new strategies to ensure the program and partners use safe, acceptable, and science-based management tools. In 2025, NWRC continued efforts to develop a feral swine toxicant, optimize control methods and disease response strategies, and understand public perceptions and policies related to feral swine.

A safe and effective toxicant bait and delivery system is a critical tool for further reducing feral swine populations and their damage. In 2025, the NWRC continued exploring feral swine toxicant formulations that are safer for non-target species while sustaining a high effectiveness and lethality to feral swine. APHIS determined that previous formulations tested, while successful at reducing feral swine populations posed too high a risk to non-target species even with mitigation strategies. The Agency intends to submit a registration application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a new toxic bait once a product has been fully developed that is highly effective and poses less risk for non-target species. In 2025, NWRC, in collaboration with Animal Control Technologies Australia, was granted a patent for a baiting/feeder system specifically designed to target feral swine, further optimizing control and targeting efforts.

In 2025, NWRC published the results from a study that identified key factors that contributed to the success of the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership, a large network of organizations involved in feral swine elimination efforts. Several factors supported the partnerships' effectiveness, including the elimination of recreational feral swine hunting opportunities on all public lands in Missouri, coordinated feral swine aerial and ground operations, leveraging University of Missouri Extension agents to conduct landowner outreach, and implementing the Incident Command System (ICS) to form a

unified response team. Researchers found that the use of an ICS enhanced transparency, accountability, and coordination among the responding agencies when managing long-term responses to address feral swine.

Black vulture populations are increasing and expanding their range in North America. This, combined with their ability to adapt well to human dominated landscapes, has contributed to increased human–vulture conflicts. In 2025, APHIS continued to document trends in black vulture conflicts, reviewed available management strategies, identified knowledge gaps, and provided recommendations to enhance the management and understanding of this species. Agency researchers also assessed the role of human-based and natural landscape features on vulture roost selection to inform managers where current and future roosts may likely occur. In 2025, NWRC collaborated with State agencies to research the impacts of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on black vulture populations across 12 States. In States with the largest vulture mortalities, more than 50 percent of the live black vultures sampled indicated the presence of HPAI antibodies, serving as a source of transmission to domestic poultry and livestock and to other wildlife species. Additionally, NWRC continued to lead a black vulture movement study, primarily in Missouri and Arkansas, testing the effectiveness of management and deterrent tools to study responses to damage mitigation strategies. In 2025, NWRC tested mitigation strategies on approximately 50 percent of the tracked black vultures. The NWRC is also working with multiple cooperators to develop wildlife management methods to reduce aviation hazards by collecting vulture movement and behavioral data to inform aviation designs and risk estimates of bird-aircraft collisions.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been detected in 36 States and impacts numerous wild and farmed populations of deer and elk. Concerns about the impacts of CWD on wild and farmed cervid populations continue to prompt research studies to reduce the spread of the disease and minimize the impact on cervid populations and stakeholders. APHIS researchers focus on the development, optimization, and deployment of state-of-the-art methods and tools to improve detection and management of CWD in wild cervids while mitigating transmission risk to farmed cervids.

In 2025, APHIS initiated several multi-year studies involving both field and lab work. These studies aim to improve CWD detection in live deer and elk using an investigative laboratory assay called real-time quaking-induced conversion, which allows for ultrasensitive detection of CWD prions through an amplification process. APHIS researchers have partnered with State agencies to coordinate management of wild cervids across jurisdictions to mitigate the spread of CWD and improve surveillance. Researchers at the NWRC are also housing white-tailed deer in Fort Collins, Colorado, to investigate CWD transmission and environmental prion persistence. In 2025, NWRC established a national sample archive to retain cervid samples collected by Federal and State agencies for use in diagnostic development and future research. The CWD national sample archive is now accepting samples.

Natural Resources

Invasive and feral species can have profound and transformative effects on native plants, animals, and ecosystems. APHIS aids in designing, implementing, and evaluating wildlife damage management activities on islands and other sensitive habitats; coordinates and provides guidance on the legal use and registration of vertebrate control methods; and assists in protecting reintroduced or recovering native species.

In 2025, NWRC assisted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service, and several horse refuges seeking solutions to resolve damage from overabundant feral horse populations. GonaCon-Equine is an immuno-contraceptive vaccine NWRC developed and registered with the EPA in 2013. In collaboration with the USFS, NWRC is continuing research to both demonstrate the safety and efficaciousness of GonaCon-Equine in stallions and determining the best booster regime for long-lasting effects in mares. NWRC is working with other agencies to customize procedures for their specific management areas using this existing tool and incorporating the latest research to increase effectiveness. The Agency also continues to pursue the development of single-shot contraceptive vaccine to provide options to better manage feral horse populations.

Additionally, APHIS partnered with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to administer GonaCon-Equine in four BLM Herd Management Areas (HMAs) until December of 2028. This formal collaboration, in partnership with NWRC and BLM, created a wild horse working plan and the timeline for implementation prior to darting operations that began in 2025. Nine APHIS employees have been trained and are actively deploying to HMAs for darting efforts. In 2025, APHIS darted 26 horses and three teams are currently operating in the Sand Wash Basin HMA. Although three HMAs are above carrying capacity, the BLM has identified Sand Wash Basin and Little Book Cliffs HMAs as the primary focus.

The western Pacific Ocean coral atoll, known as Wake Atoll, is approximately 7 square kilometers and consists of three islands: Wake Island, Wilkes Island, and Peale Island. APHIS is collaborating with the U.S. Air Force and Island Conservation to conduct an eradication project on Wake Atoll to remove two invasive rodent species— Pacific rats and newly introduced woodrats. In preparation for the eradication, NWRC worked with partners to determine the range of invasive woodrats on Wake Atoll. NWRC received EPA approval in 2023 for island conservation bait products containing the acute toxicant bromethalin. The use of a toxicant expands the number of tools available to remove invasive rodents on Wake Atoll, and possibly other islands to protect human health and safety and restore native ecosystems. After the initial eradication operation and monitoring efforts, APHIS initiated the removal of 20 remaining rodents. APHIS successfully eradicated both species of rodents on Wake Atoll in 2025.

In North America, bovine tuberculosis (TB) is recognized as a disease of cattle and deer. The Cooperative State-Federal Tuberculosis Eradication Program comprised of the USDA, State animal health agencies, and livestock producers has nearly eliminated TB from cattle in the United States. However, white-tailed deer remain a maintenance host for TB in some locations and thus represent a barrier for eradication. Efforts to eradicate TB from the United States would be enhanced by optimizing the delivery of the TB vaccine to wild white-tailed deer. Direct vaccine delivery methods, traditionally used for livestock, are impractical for wild deer as they require capture and handling of the animal. Rather than direct administration, NWRC has developed a novel method to encapsulate the vaccine in an edible polymer *(provisional patent filed)* that can be deployed in the field as an edible bait, eliminating the need for animal handling. Initial studies found that deer receiving the vaccine via the edible polymer had comparable immunological responses to those receiving the vaccine directly. APHIS conducted a field trial to evaluate bait delivery effectiveness to wild white-tailed deer that resulted in high levels of bait consumption. The results of this study were analyzed and published in 2025 indicating a high success rate in using edible baits as an integrated management effort to reduce transmission of TB to livestock and spread among wild white-tailed deer.

Human Health and Safety

NWRC develops and evaluates new tools and techniques to address human health and safety issues related to wildlife disease and aviation safety. Since 1995, the Agency has been working cooperatively with Federal, State, and local agencies, universities, and other partners to prevent the spread and reduce the prevalence of the rabies virus (RABV) in specific wildlife populations. Each year, APHIS and cooperators distribute oral rabies vaccine baits to immunize target wildlife populations within control zones to prevent the spread of raccoon RABV.

NWRC develops new tools and techniques, and evaluates disease management strategies, to support APHIS' National Rabies Management Program and its mission to prevent the spread of wildlife rabies and protect U.S. public health, agriculture, and natural resources. When a breach in a rabies management zone occurs, APHIS and its partners respond to prevent the spread of RABV to new areas and to eliminate the local outbreak. In 2025, APHIS continued researching enhanced field diagnostic tools, wildlife rabies management methods, and modeling to improve prevention, control, and elimination of RABV. APHIS uses enhanced rabies surveillance to determine the incidence, geographic, and temporal distribution of RABV, utilizing a point system to prioritize different types of surveillance samples. In 2025, the NWRC developed and released the framework for a national automated enhanced rabies surveillance dashboard. The dashboard transforms complex surveillance

data into actionable, operationally useful performance metrics providing APHIS near real-time access to indicators of program effectiveness. The dashboard supports strategic planning, resource prioritization, and aligns dynamic sampling priorities associated with a genetic tissue archive and collaborative research products. In 2025, NWRC researchers also completed a long-term historical analysis of APHIS' National Rabies Management Program's operations, monitoring, and surveillance data. The analysis reviewed 293 monitoring events involving 25,705 animal serum sample results across 15 states and 84,907 enhanced rabies surveillance test records across 19 states. Results of this analysis demonstrate the linkages between oral rabies vaccination management, raccoon population immunity, and raccoon RABV case reduction in the eastern United States.

Partnerships and Technology Transfer

The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 allows Federal laboratories and industry to form partnerships that enhance the development of new technologies and move them to the marketplace to meet public and consumer needs. APHIS regularly partners with Federal and State entities, private companies, international groups, and non-governmental organizations to encourage the development and licensing of new wildlife damage management products to manage wildlife conflicts. NWRC partners with universities and small businesses to develop and enhance frequently used technologies including wildlife damage management devices, baits, formulations, and vaccines. In 2025, NWRC furthered its partnership efforts to make sure its research and development activities had a path for commercial development and operational management with the following: 6 Confidentiality Agreements, 7 Data Sharing Agreements, 5 Material Transfer Agreements, 6 Material Transfer Research Agreements, 4 Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, 5 Invention Disclosures, 6 Provisional Patent Applications, and 8 patents issued.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress – Regulatory Enforcement:

1. Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement

Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement (APHRE) provide investigative, enforcement, and regulatory support services to the Agency's four regulatory programs and Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) activities carried out in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). APHRE investigates alleged violations of Federal laws under its jurisdiction and pursues appropriate enforcement actions through administrative, civil, or criminal procedures.

In 2025, APHRE initiated 1,269 new cases, issued 818 official warnings, issued 487 pre-litigation settlements resulting in the collection of $869,947 in stipulated penalties, and obtained administrative orders assessing $257,269 in civil penalties.

To support animal health, APHRE initiated 126 cases, issued 223 official warnings, issued 12 pre-litigation settlements resulting in the collection of $12,750 in stipulated penalties, and obtained one administrative order assessing $210,000 in civil penalties. In 2025, for example, APHRE negotiated a prelitigation settlement in the amount of $3,250 to resolve violations involving moving cattle interstate without proper health certificates. In one case, working with USDA's Office of General Counsel (OGC), APHRE prevailed on appeal of a Decision and Order assessing a penalty of $210,000 for moving horses interstate without proper documentation and with potential to spread equine infectious anemia.

To support plant health, APHRE initiated 26 cases, issued 22 official warnings, negotiated 6 pre-litigation settlement agreements resulting in the collection of $65,775 in stipulated penalties. In one case, APHRE negotiated a pre-litigation settlement of $35,000 for the importation of prohibited fruit from Argentina.

To support AQI animal and plant health activities, APHRE initiated 877 cases, issued 297 official warnings, issued 468 pre-litigation settlement agreements, resulting in the collection of $791,422 in stipulated penalties, and obtained three administrative orders resulting in the assessment of $22,589 in civil penalties. In 2025, for example, APHRE negotiated a pre-litigation settlement of $150,000 involving importing seeds without required permits and phytosanitary certificates. In one case,

working with OGC, APHRE obtained Consent Decision and Order assessing a penalty of $20,000 for the release of shipments of cut flowers in violation of agricultural inspection hold orders placed by CBP.

To support biotechnology regulation, APHRE issued one official warning related to alleged violations of permit conditions for genetically modified soybeans.

To support animal welfare, APHRE initiated 240 cases for alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), issued 275 official warnings, obtained 8 administrative orders resulting in the assessment of $5,500 in civil penalties, and suspended or revoked 3 licenses. For example, APHRE negotiated a pre-litigation settlement revoking the license of an exhibitor.

To support horse protection, APHRE obtained 10 administrative orders resulting in the assessment of $19,180 in civil penalties and the disqualification of 10 individuals from participating in activities regulated under the Horse Protection Act (HPA). In one case, working with OGC, APHRE obtained a Consent Decision and Order assessing a penalty of $4,000 and a two-year disqualification period for entering a sore horse at a show in Kentucky.

APHRE will continue to post copies of AWA and HPA enforcement records on its website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-care/awa-services/animal-welfare-horse-protection-actions.

2. Biotechnology Regulatory Services

APHIS' biotechnology regulatory system safeguards American agriculture and agriculturally important resources through fostering the safe research, development, and commercialization of innovative new agricultural products. Under the Plant Protection Act's (PPA) authority, APHIS oversees plants and certain other organisms developed using genetic engineering (modified plants and modified organisms) that may pose a pest risk to plants. Biotechnology regulations allow APHIS to place requirements on field testing, importation, and interstate movement of modified plants and organisms that are plant pests or modified using plant pests, unless the Agency reviews a modified plant and determines it is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk.

Regulatory Changes

In 2025, APHIS continued its operations under the revised biotechnology regulations (7 CFR part 340) that were published in May 2020 until a court vacated the revised regulations in December 2024. APHIS quickly reestablished its previous regulations, resuming partial regulatory operations within 17 days (resuming issuance of permits for regulated activities and voluntary jurisdictional determinations) and full regulatory operations within 87 days (undertaking significant development of its electronic authorization system to resume the notification process -- a streamlined authorization process -- by day 52, and resuming the process for determinations of non-regulated status by day 87). APHIS provided regular updates to stakeholders throughout this process and issued revised guides for authorizations (both permits and notifications), petitions, and the Am I Regulated process for voluntary jurisdictional determinations. The revised regulations reduced regulatory burdens, allowing small to mid-sized developers to compete in the biotechnology marketplace, unlike the legacy regulations that favored large developers.

Authorizations

Developers must obtain an authorization for the movement—importation, interstate movement, or environmental release—of regulated plants and organisms unless the Agency has reviewed a modified plant and determines it is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk. As part of the authorization process, APHIS evaluates potential risks associated with regulated activities and imposes specific permit conditions to ensure confinement of modified plants and organisms. In 2025, APHIS issued 922 authorizations to 264 organizations (academia, developers of all sizes, and government research groups) to use novel plants and organisms developed using genetic engineering. The Agency issued 8.5 percent more authorizations in 2025 compared to 2024, completing 95 percent of authorizations within target timeframes specified in the regulations. Although returning to its previous regulations, in 2025 APHIS maintained the business process improvements it developed in 2024, helping developers more efficiently prepare and submit permit applications for modified plants and microbes. As a result

of these process improvements, APHIS reduced the overall time to issue import and interstate movement permits by approximately 9 percent.

Regulatory Review of Modified Plants for Nonregulated or Exempt Status

Under the revised regulations, developers could request a Regulatory Status Review (RSR) to learn whether a modified plant is subject to the regulations. The RSR process evaluated a modified plant relative to an appropriate non-modified counterpart to determine whether the modified plant requires oversight based on its characteristics, rather than on the process used to develop the plant. In 2025, APHIS issued three responses to RSR requests prior to vacatur of the revised regulations, including corn, tomato, and the first ever modified almond product. APHIS reduced the average response time for an initial review of an RSR request to 214 days in 2025 (continuing improvement from 396 days in 2022, 318 days in 2023, and 224 days in 2024). Post-vacatur, APHIS incorporated lessons learned from the RSR process into the resumed petition process for determinations of non-regulated status, modified the process based on historic data from a triple public notice to a double public notice process, and deferred review under the National Environmental Policy Act until after, and only if, a risk assessment is unable to determine the modified plant poses no greater plant pest risk. As a result of these improvements, APHIS completed two determinations of non-regulated status, including the first ever modified orchid which was completed within the 180-day timeframe specified in the regulations.

APHIS' Confirmation Request process under the revised regulations, which was modelled after the Am I Regulated (AIR) process used under the prior regulations, allowed developers to voluntarily request confirmation from APHIS that a modified plant qualifies for an exemption and therefore, is not subject to regulation. In 2024, APHIS issued 44 response letters confirming a modified plant's exempt status within an average of 56 days, approximately 64 days faster than the timeframe specified in the regulations. In 2025, APHIS did not issue confirmation of exemption response letters, and post-vacatur, APHIS resumed the non-regulatory AIR process for confirming whether an organism is regulated because it is, or was modified using, a plant pest. In 2025, APHIS issued 69 AIR responses confirming that modified plants and microorganisms were not subject to its biotechnology regulations, a 360 percent increase compared to the historic average of 15 responses per year, with 85 percent faster service (AIR completion 2025 average: 28 days; historic average: 190 days). All but three of these responses benefited small or medium-sized developers, expediting innovative product development for agricultural use and domestic and international markets, including, for example orange for resistance to citrus greening, pennycress with altered root architecture, tomato with improved water use efficiency and enhanced fruit quality, poplar for increased biomass accumulation, and several microorganisms for increase nitrogen fixation.

Compliance and Inspections

APHIS requires developers to comply with authorization requirements to help ensure that modified plants and organisms remain confined and do not persist in the environment. APHIS inspects fields, equipment, and other associated facilities to ensure regulated activities meet the requirements outlined in the permit. In 2025, APHIS conducted 504 inspections. These inspections resulted in the issuance of 460 notices of compliance and 44 notices of noncompliance with APHIS' biotechnology regulations and permit requirements. Building on last year's business process review, APHIS improved service delivery of noncompliance notice issuance by 870 percent over historic averages (2025: 11 days, historic average: 96 days), and delivered 93 percent within 14 days, a 9 percent improvement over 2024. APHIS also maintains other compliance evaluation processes (self-reporting, late reporting, etc.), which resulted in issuance of 84 notices of noncompliance. When compliance incidents or patterns of noncompliance occur, APHIS assesses the nature and seriousness of the noncompliance and determines appropriate steps to follow up, ranging from issuing regulatory correspondence to requesting an investigation and seeking sanctions for alleged noncompliance.

Partnerships

APHIS engages in capacity building efforts for foreign regulatory officials and scientific advisors by conducting presentations, participating in international forums, and serving on committees. In 2025, APHIS delivered 8 presentations to diverse international organizations, regulators, reviewers, and

scientists from more than 17 countries and economies, including the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Korea, and participated in 3 bilateral engagements between regulators and scientists from the United States and Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. APHIS also supported the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Party for the Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology by providing feedback on proposals and draft documents for 7 ongoing OECD projects, including proposing and initiating co-development of a citrus biology document with Brazil.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress – Emergency Management:

1. Emergency Preparedness & Response

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) program improves APHIS' capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from animal health emergencies. The program's goal is to respond to an animal health event within 24 hours from the time APHIS determines that a federal emergency response is needed to manage an agricultural outbreak. Through this program, APHIS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) jointly manage the Federal Select Agents Program (FSAP), which oversees the possession, use, and transfer of biological select agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public, animal or plant health, or to animal or plant products.

Preparedness, Partnerships, & Planning

APHIS' National Preparedness and Incident Coordination Center (NPIC) develop animal health emergency management guidelines to protect U.S. animal agriculture through collaborative, science- and risk-based strategies, and creates dynamic, real-world learning scenarios to build response capabilities of emergency responders to help maintain response readiness. In 2025, APHIS continued to sustain animal health readiness capacity by maintaining five Incident Management Teams (IMT) with 28 volunteer first-responders per team. These teams deploy anywhere in the U.S. to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health disease events. IMT members participate in training and workshops on the Incident Command System, animal disease, and information technology.

In 2025, the EPR program continued to provide map and geospatial support for the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), including situation reports and map products for incident coordination and briefings. For example, the program developed products that displayed ineligible trade zones for all HPAI confirmed cases. The program also improved interactive map tools to support trade between the U.S and Canada, verifying that exported poultry products did not travel within restricted zones.

In 2025, APHIS continued a Ready Response Corps pilot program to expand its emergency response capacity and alleviate the strain on the Agency's workforce during animal disease emergencies. The Ready Response Corps is designed to bolster APHIS' ability to address animal disease threats while continuing to achieve its mission. The Agency has filled 9 animal health professional positions that are placed in geographic areas at high risk for outbreaks affecting larger or more complex poultry operations. These highly trained professionals will deploy and support national level response in areas where large livestock and poultry operations exist, allowing for increased response capacity and close collaboration with State animal health officials and industry partners. APHIS will continue to expand the Ready Response Corps pilot in 2026.

In 2025, APHIS updated the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) on the Microsoft Power Apps platform. EMRS is a web-based application used for the reporting of routine investigations of foreign animal diseases (FADs), surveillance and control programs, State-specific disease outbreaks, and national animal health emergency responses (all-hazards). The migration of data and business process for the EMRS to the Power Apps platform entails more than 1,000 workflows and dialogs, and more than 16 million records. This transition will provide many beneficial features such as improved user experience through streamlined and efficient information capture, enhanced mobile capabilities, and additional reporting tools. Current planned enhancements include updates to EMRS2Go, enhancement of the EMRS Permitting Gateway to include allowing approved producers to report vaccination activities, re-imagination of the tracing module to introduce artificial intelligence to

streamline and simplify user experience, the ability to electronically capture epidemiological assessments, the ability to receive 3rd party movement data, as well as other critical and beneficial enhancements.

The EPR program also protects the health and safety of Agency personnel. Respirators are vital in protecting workers from significant hazards including insufficient oxygen and harmful pollutants. They are also needed in case of an avian influenza outbreak or an emergency response that requires hazardous chemicals. To comply with regulations instituted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, APHIS trains employees as respirator fit-testers and annually fit-tests any employees who may use a respirator. The Agency was able to provide in-person safety training to 140 supervisors and employees in 2025. APHIS' Medical Surveillance and Monitoring Program finished 2025 with 1,817 personnel completing medical appointments in support of occupational health, and the Agency currently has 1,568 employees with a respiratory medical clearance. The Agency also maintained and calibrated 33 respiratory protection Porta Count Kits and purchased 3 new kits, which are used for respirator fit testing of field personnel and emergency response efforts. The newer models are completely redesigned and provide a new user interface and industry-first features that comprise the most powerful fit test instrument available. The addition of 3 new kits will improve fit testing coverage across the United States.

APHIS expanded animal emergency response coordination in 2025 through a partnership with the Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue, and Recovery (ZDR3) to assist the exotic animal industry during natural disasters. ZDR3 and APHIS coordinate manage significant natural emergencies that impact the exotic animal industry before, during, and after incidents. In 2025, with support of an APHIS cooperative agreement ZDR3 grew into an emergency response network composed of over 227 zoos, aquariums, sanctuaries, and other related facilities in 40 States. In 2025, APHIS continued working with the Zoo and Aquarium All-Hazards Partnership (ZAHP), a collaborative effort between USDA and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. The effort provided outreach to hundreds of entities including zoos, aquariums, wildlife parks, sanctuaries, rehabilitation facilities, science centers, professional associations, hobbyist groups, private owners, private veterinary practitioners, and State, Federal, and local emergency management agencies. The ZAHP activities included webinars, and other events, covering topics such as NWS and HPAI impacts on zoos, biosecurity and resilience. The ZAHP presented two online emergency preparedness seminars focused on HPAI and NWS. In 2025, APHIS continued collaborating with States to strengthen their ability to assist animals in an emergency with enhanced contingency planning. In 2025, the Agency participated in two tabletop exercises. These exercises focused on emergency scenarios in small rural zoos affected by natural disasters in California and North Carolina. In 2025, APHIS also assisted government and non-governmental partners to develop and interpret policy and guidance for pet care during an emergency, including supporting the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) annual conference for states, emergency managers, and non-governmental organizations to discuss animal emergency planning and mutual aid.

Response Efforts

In 2025, FEMA activated Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 coordinators 11 times to respond to, or provide support for, incidents including wildfires, hurricanes, severe storms/tornados, and flooding. APHIS personnel processed 1,776 resource requests for virtual and onsite deployments for 848 unique responders to support 19 agricultural and all-hazards incidents at 77 incident locations. For example, APHIS supported response efforts involving animal diseases and natural disasters including response and recovery associated with Hurricane Helene, Southern California wildfires, and flooding in Kentucky and Texas. APHIS' National Training and Exercise Program (NTEP) delivered 12 courses that trained 232 students to prepare APHIS emergency responders and IMTs for emergency deployments.

Safeguarding of Select Agents

APHIS and the CDC jointly administer the select agents and toxins regulations as the Federal Select Agents Program (FSAP). To eliminate potential conflicts of interest, CDC inspects USDA facilities, and APHIS inspects CDC facilities that possess select agents. APHIS' Division of Agricultural Select Agents and Toxins (DASAT) ensures that registered facilities promptly address non-compliances and take

corrective actions. At the end of 2025, 225 entities were registered with FSAP; 185 were registered with the CDC and 40 were registered with APHIS. In 2025, DASAT completed 81 inspections consisting of 33 verification inspections, 43 registration renewal inspections, 9 amendment inspections, 1 compliance inspection, and 1 Effluent Decontamination Systems (EDS) inspection. An EDS inspection is a device that decontaminates or sterilizes biologically active or biohazardous materials in fluid and liquid waste material. Some of the total number of inspections were combinations of inspection types. DASAT conducted 72 onsite inspections and 9 remote inspections. Additionally, 56 of the inspections APHIS conducted were joint inspections with CDC.

APHIS' DASAT also collaborates with other agencies that have laboratories registered with FSAP. In 2025, APHIS was accompanied by the Department of Homeland Security on one inspection, the Department of the Army Inspector General on one inspection, and the Food and Drug Administration on one inspection. BSL-4 inspections involve dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high risk of laboratory infections and life-threatening disease for which there are no vaccines or treatments. DASAT conducted onsite inspections at six BSL-4 facilities in 2025, with five of these receiving an additional remote inspection for record review purposes. DASAT identified deficiencies during these inspections and notified the inspected entities so that they can take swift corrective action. DASAT also worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which conducts security risk assessments for the program, to evaluate individuals requesting access to the select agents and toxins. In 2024, FSAP facilitated 4,210 FBI security risk assessments with 8,902 approved individuals and restricted the access of 18 individuals based on FBI background investigations, preventing potential misuse or handling of the select agents and toxins by individuals who may be bad actors. Security risk assessment numbers for 2025 will be available in January 2026. FSAP continued to coordinate with representatives from APHIS and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) overseeing the transition of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas to provide guidance on select agent registration.

Modeling and Monitoring

APHIS uses epidemiologic and economic models to better understand historical events, estimate consequences, and inform strategic, logistical, and budgetary decisions by evaluating varying interventions related to animal health. In 2025, the Agency continued to develop modeling applications and disease-spread scenarios to explore the impact of alternative control strategies on the severity and duration of simulated, national-level African Swine fever (ASF), foot and mouth disease, and HPAI outbreaks. These scenarios support field responder training exercises and strengthen surveillance strategies before a potential outbreak as well as during an outbreak. APHIS and ARS used these model scenarios to inform emergency response planning and evaluate the effectiveness of applying network-based controls during simulated foot and mouth disease outbreaks. In 2025, APHIS applied these models to guide decision-making and support resource planning associated with ASF outbreaks in the United States and ongoing HPAI outbreaks in North America. In 2025, APHIS also maintained models for classical swine fever, bluetongue virus, and virulent Newcastle disease.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations

In 2025, APHIS conducted 2,002 foreign animal disease investigations, of which 897 were vesicular disease investigations. Vesicular diseases are viral diseases that affect various livestock animals, primarily swine and cattle. The most concerning vesicular disease is foot and mouth disease, which is the highest consequence foreign animal disease in terms of regulatory intervention and economic consequences. Several vesicular diseases exhibit similar clinical signs and can only be differentiated through laboratory testing. In addition, 729 of the investigations were poultry investigations; this increase since 2024 is due to an uptick in detections as a result of the ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza response in poultry (started in 2022).

SAFE TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Current Activities

APHIS monitors animal and plant health throughout the world and uses this information to set effective agricultural import policies to prevent the introduction of foreign animal and plant pests and diseases. APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security cooperate to enforce these policies at U.S.

ports of entry. APHIS also develops and conducts pre-clearance programs to ensure that foreign agricultural products destined for the United States do not present a risk to U.S. agriculture. The Agency engages in cooperative programs to control pests of imminent concern to the United States and to strengthen foreign plant protection and quarantine organizations. The Agency also provides scientific and technical support in resolving sanitary (animal) and phytosanitary (plant) trade barriers.

APHIS negotiates animal and plant health certification requirements, assists U.S. exporters in meeting foreign regulatory requirements, ensures requirements are proportional to risk without being excessively restrictive, and provides any necessary technical information to support the safety of U.S. agricultural products destined for foreign markets.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress in Facilitating Safe Trade:

1. Agriculture Import/Export

APHIS works with other Federal agencies, States, foreign governments, industry, and academia to protect U.S. agriculture while facilitating the safe trade of animals and animal products. APHIS' animal health experts ensure that U.S. import requirements safeguard U.S. livestock health and negotiate requirements for the export of U.S. animals and animal products worldwide. These requirements are based on compliance with international standards, importing country regulations, sound scientific principles, and fair-trading practices for animals and animal products. In addition, APHIS sets quarantine, testing, and/or other requirements under which animals and animal products can be imported or exported. These requirements help ensure that global markets can be accessed, expanded, or maintained with little or no risk to U.S. animal production and human health.

APHIS conducts activities related to the 2008 Farm Bill amendments to the Lacey Act, which prohibits the importation of any plants, with limited exceptions, that are taken or traded in violation of domestic or international laws. The Act requires a declaration for imported shipments of most plants or plant products. A 2012 study by the United Nations Environmental Programme estimated the value of illegal logging, including processing, to be between $30 to $100 billion dollars, or 10 to 30 percent of the global wood trade. The Lacey Act amendments are designed to help combat this illegal logging by encouraging importers to research their supply chains and be aware of the laws governing products they purchase in other countries. APHIS' role is to evaluate and implement existing regulations, provide guidance to importers regarding the required declaration, perform compliance checks, provide enforcement agencies with declaration information to assist their investigations, and maintain declaration records.

Imports

To facilitate imports, APHIS evaluates the animal health status of regions that wish to export animals and/or animal products to the United States. This evaluation process minimizes the risk of introducing foreign animal diseases through importation and is consistent with international trade requirements. In 2025, APHIS completed several evaluations and published regulatory actions based on those evaluations in the Federal Register. These regulatory actions establish interim restrictions on the importation of animals and animal products to the United States due to various disease outbreaks in other countries. To ensure countries have appropriate surveillance, prevention, and control measures in place, APHIS conducts site visits around the world to minimize the likelihood of introducing foreign animal diseases into the United States.

APHIS ensures that import regulations are effective and science-based and works with U.S. businesses and importers to facilitate safe trade. In 2025, APHIS continued working with States to better understand State-level disease control options and how they can support trade. The Agency has implemented a customer-friendly veterinary permitting assistant tool called eFile for all live animal and animal product permitting needs. Through eFile, users can manage applications, registrations, permits, and licenses online. Additionally, APHIS issued 22,100 import, transit, and interstate permits for live animals, animal products, organisms, and vectors in 2025. These include new permits, renewals, and amendments.

Exports

To open, re-open, expand, and maintain U.S. access to worldwide export markets, APHIS negotiates science-based conditions with trading partners for various commodities that protect their country while also facilitating trade. In 2025, APHIS negotiated or re-negotiated 21 export protocols for animal products (5 new markets, 1 re-opened markets, 14 expanded markets, and 1 retained market). To complete export requests, APHIS conducted voluntary inspections of approximately 1,918 U.S. manufacturing facilities to maintain, expand, or open export markets in many countries. To support live animal exports (including germplasm and fertile/ hatching eggs), APHIS opened 97 new markets, expanded 33 markets, retained 40 markets, and reopened 9 markets.

In 2025, APHIS continued its efforts to expand and safeguard U.S. live animal and animal product exports, during the largest and longest highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in US history allowing U.S. poultry exports to continue from unaffected regions despite ongoing outbreaks. Additionally, in 2025 APHIS continued to take a proactive approach with African swine fever (ASF). APHIS negotiated regionalization agreements of the United States should an outbreak of ASF occur in the US mainland and strengthened its ASF protection zone encompassing Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, 11 countries have formally recognized the zone and agreed to continue accepting U.S. swine and pork exports from the mainland should ASF be detected in the protection zone. APHIS also continued to engage with additional trading partners to expand recognition of this zone and conducted enhanced surveillance and outreach in the Caribbean to mitigate risk

APHIS also assisted export markets by participating in industry stakeholder meetings, provided technical support to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative for World Trade Organization (WTO) cases, coordinated or supported audits with trade partners with whom we have requested new or expanded market access, and engaged in bilateral trade meetings. In addition, APHIS developed information packages and questionnaire responses from various countries to maintain, expand, or open export markets as well as to release held shipments. In 2025, APHIS endorsed 379,930 export health certificates for animal products, livestock, poultry, germplasm, and pets.

APHIS utilizes a two-tiered approval system for the issuance and endorsement of U.S. origin veterinary export health certificates for live animals, including germplasm. A USDA Accredited Veterinarian qualifies the animal for export, performing all required pre-export examinations, tests and treatments, and issues (completes and signs) the veterinary export health certificate. After the export certificate is issued, it is sent to APHIS' Veterinary Services as the U.S. Competent Authority for Animal Health for review and endorsement. In 2020, APHIS issued a notice to the WTO indicating the acceptance of electronic USDA Accredited Veterinarian signature for the issuance of all live animal export health certificates submitted to APHIS for endorsement. APHIS continues to streamline this process and increase the number of live animal health export certificates issued electronically and/ or electronically/ digitally signed by expanding the system capabilities for the Agency's online Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). VEHCS capabilities include digital signature, multiple user roles, a certificate upload feature, certificate re-issuance, and inclusion of supporting documents and payment information. APHIS also continues to diligently work to expand the number of countries and commodities for which electronic certification is accepted by our trading partners; digitally endorsed export health certificates for live animals are currently accepted by 49 countries. In 2025, APHIS participated in a World Organization for Animal Health working group and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to further international standard-setting for electronic certification in animals/animal products.

APHIS evaluates the veterinary infrastructure and animal disease statuses of current and potential trading partners to establish and maintain safe trade. Through ongoing monitoring and various methods, APHIS identifies new disease detections abroad that may affect a country's ability to safely trade with the U.S. When foreign animal diseases of concern are detected in another country, APHIS imposes import restrictions in response and promptly notifies stakeholders and the affected trading partner. APHIS also responds to requests for U.S. veterinary infrastructure and program information from trading partners for the purposes of establishing or maintaining trade. This is critical in re-establishing trade following a foreign animal disease detection in the U.S., such as HPAI.

Lacey Act

In 2025, APHIS received 32 million Lacey Act declarations with a total declared value of over $161 billion. As the vast majority of declarations are submitted electronically, APHIS announced that it will no longer accept paper declarations after December 31, 2025. All filers will need to use CBP's Automated Cargo Environment or APHIS' Lacey Act Web Governance System. Since implementing the 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act, APHIS has added products to the declaration requirement/enforcement schedule in phases. The most recent, Phase 7, became effective on December 1, 2024, requiring the declaration for all remaining plant product Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes that are not 100-percent composite materials. Phase 7 covers several hundred HTS codes and includes items as varied as industrial or medicinal plants, furniture, handbags, plywood, laminated wood, tools, matches with natural wood stems, products of natural cork, products of bamboo and rattan, footwear, and more. APHIS conducted extensive outreach with stakeholders and industry covered under Phase 7. As part of these efforts, APHIS held webinars and provided training that reached more than 13,000 participants and attended numerous trade events, answering questions from over 2,200 individuals. The number of declarations submitted increased significantly, from 2.7 million in 2024 to 32 million in 2025.

APHIS and its Federal partners (including other USDA agencies, CBP, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) continued to expand and improve Lacey Act compliance programs. In 2025, APHIS issued more than 250 Letters of Noncompliance to importers who submitted declarations with errors or inconsistencies to allow them to correct the issues. APHIS provided 18 reports of declaration data to multiple interagency law enforcement partners; data supporting environmental obligations of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement; and data to develop an interagency operation to inspect shipments at U.S. ports of entry suspected of illegal harvest.

2. Overseas Technical & Trade Operations

The Overseas Technical and Trade Operations (OTTO) program plays a critical role in maintaining the competitiveness of American agriculture in the global market by resolving concerns over animal and plant health issues that affect trade of agricultural products, addressing unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and preventing biosecurity threats that could damage U.S. food production. With a presence in more than 30 countries, APHIS maintains a cadre of foreign service officers that work directly with foreign governments, industry leaders, and international regulatory organizations to advocate on behalf of U.S. agriculture and ensure that American producers are not impacted by unscientific SPS barriers while also safeguarding American farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses from foreign pests and diseases APHIS' efforts contributed to $173 billion of U.S. agricultural products entering foreign markets in 2025.

APHIS uses its strong scientific base and team of technical experts located in the United States and abroad to advocate on behalf of U.S. agriculture and resolve SPS trade barriers. APHIS' technical experts build strong working relationships with host-country counterparts and use their scientific acumen to address counterpart concerns that result in the removal of trade barriers for American agricultural exports. These conversations take place via working level discussions, bilateral technical meetings, and multilateral fora. APHIS stations scientists, including veterinarians, entomologists, botanists, and plant pathologists, throughout the world who collaborate with their foreign counterparts on animal and plant health issues to support U.S. exports and the establishment of science-based international animal and plant health standards that facilitate trade and reduce risk.

Among the most notable successes for 2025 was the restoration of U.S. beef access to Australia after more than twenty years of restrictions. This outcome was the result of APHIS' coordination on technical protocols and sustained interagency engagement with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Another significant example is new access for U.S. sorghum to Malaysia worth potentially $100 million per year.

APHIS also protected existing markets under threat of closing. In February, APHIS successfully worked with China to maintain registration validity for U.S. pet food and animal feed facilities,

preserving nearly $300 million in exports to China. This required an interagency coordinated response to manage partner concerns and deliver unified U.S. positions. On the plant health side, APHIS re-opened access for U.S. apples to Thailand and U.S. potatoes to Costa Rica and introduced a systems approach for peaches and nectarines to Vietnam. This success—supported by USTR advocacy in bilateral talks—marked the first time Vietnam authorized such an approach, directly improving American competitiveness. APHIS also responded to niche industry requests, such as enabling exports of pet birds to Paraguay, animal tissue models to Brazil, and tomatillo seeds to Bolivia.

APHIS must continually address SPS issues to ensure continued smooth trade for U.S. exporters, even for markets that are open to U.S. agricultural products. APHIS works with foreign counterparts to clarify or streamline certification requirements, making it easier and less costly for U.S. exporters to move their products overseas. When shipments are delayed at foreign ports, APHIS negotiates the overseas process to get products released and moving again. APHIS successfully secured the release of 448 shipments held at foreign ports of entry, contributing to an estimated value of $73 million in U.S. agricultural exports. For example, 47 metric tons of corn valued at $8.2 million from Louisiana was held at Japan's port of entry for only three days due to the intervention of the APHIS staff in Tokyo. Other high value single shipments include U.S. cotton to Turkey valued at $5.3 million, U.S. fishery products to Vietnam $3.8 million), Wyoming dairy products to Ukraine ($3.2 million), and U.S. bovine embryos to Russia ($1.1 million).

At the multilateral level, APHIS represented the United States at WTO SPS Committee meetings in raising concerns about on topics such as antimicrobial resistance legislation, HPAI restrictions, and certification requirements for animal products. These interventions, coordinated with USTR, defend U.S. market interests while reinforcing science-based standard-setting. APHIS commented on ten chapters and subsections that were adopted during the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) General Session on Terrestrial and Aquatic animals championing standards that support U.S. agricultural exports. Likewise, APHIS advocated for science-based plant health standards through technical engagements with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Commission on phytosanitary measures and steering committees for safe agricultural trade.

Establishing market access for American farmers, ranchers, and producers requires years of market analysis, proactive engagements, and relationship building. Emerging markets often require extra effort in the form of technical exchanges, cooperation, and collaboration. APHIS facilitated six foreign engagement events in the capital region, fostering relationships with nearly fifty foreign representatives of governments and international organizations. These events were supported by the International Visitor Center and included site visits to USDA installations, bi- and multi-lateral meetings, and representational events. Foreign engagements outside of bi- and multi-lateral meetings can be transformative in a counterpart's perception of American agricultural products, technologies, and value addition to their country's agendas resulting in adoption and reduced barriers to safe trade.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Current Activities

The Agency ensures the humane care and treatment of certain animals and horses as required by the Animal Welfare Act of 1966 as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131-2159), and the Horse Protection Act (HPA) of 1970 as amended (15 U.S.C. 1821-1831) through inspection, education, and enforcement efforts. Animal welfare activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for research, exhibition, wholesale pet trade, or transported in commerce. During these inspections, APHIS reviews the animals, premises, facilities, husbandry practices, programs of veterinary care, records, and animal handling procedures. APHIS also administers the HPA, as amended, which prohibits the showing, sale, auction, exhibition, or transport of sore horses. Program personnel evaluate the performance of industry-licensed inspectors and conduct unannounced inspections at horse shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress in Animal Welfare:

1. Animal Welfare

APHIS' Animal Welfare program has the unique Federal role of ensuring the humane care and treatment of animals. Nearly sixty years ago, in 1966, Congress signed the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) into law. Since that time, APHIS, through the Animal Care Program and its predecessors, has protected millions of AWA-covered animals used in research, exhibition, and the pet trade, as well as those transported in commerce. Each year, the program refines its operations to ensure licensing, registration, inspection, permitting, outreach, and enforcement activities are responsive to current needs. In 2025, the program oversaw close to 16,500 licensees and registrants.

Licensing and Inspection Activities

In total in 2025, across all announced and unannounced inspection types, APHIS completed approximately 9,800 inspections, evaluating more than 2 million AWA-covered species.

The AWA requires all facilities that use AWA-covered animals to obtain authorization from APHIS prior to engaging in regulated activities. APHIS works with applicants to ensure they understand the requirements for a license and each applicant must demonstrate full compliance with the AWA regulations prior to obtaining a license. In 2025, APHIS conducted approximately 528 pre-licensing inspections and issued 423 new licenses. For first-time license holders, APHIS conducts an initial unannounced compliance inspection within three months of issuing the license and, thereafter, at risk-based intervals. At the first unannounced inspection, approximately 97 percent of newly licensed sites were substantially compliant, meaning that APHIS did not identify any noncompliant items that impacted animal welfare during the inspections.

Once issued, an AWA license remains valid for three years. At the end of this three-year period, the licensee must apply for a new license and again demonstrate full compliance during an announced inspection before APHIS will issue a new license for the facility. In 2025, APHIS conducted 1,613 licensing inspections for license holders that applied for a new license and issued approximately 1,440 licenses to those facilities that demonstrated full compliance with the AWA regulations. APHIS also completed 52 announced inspections for licensed facilities that requested to add a new site to their license.

During AWA compliance inspections, Agency officials examine and inspect animals, premises, facilities, husbandry practices, programs of veterinary care, records, and animal handling procedures. Although pre-license inspections are announced inspections, once a facility is licensed it is subject to unannounced compliance inspections. In 2025, APHIS conducted 5,255 routine unannounced inspections, with approximately 97 percent of sites found to be substantially compliant with the AWA regulations at the time of inspection. Beyond this, APHIS conducted approximately 328 focused unannounced inspections to follow up on issues related to a noncompliant incident found during routine inspection or identified in a complaint submitted to the Agency. Focused inspections determine if a facility has addressed previously identified issues or if there is an ongoing risk to animal welfare that requires further attention.

Permitting Activities

The AWA requires persons who import dogs for resale to obtain a permit from APHIS before the dogs may lawfully enter the United States. To obtain a permit, importers must demonstrate dogs are over six months of age (with limited exception), and are vaccinated and healthy. In 2025, APHIS issued 2,110 permits covering 4,973 dogs entering the United States. The Agency continues to collaborate with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to address suspected incidents of importing underaged dogs and the illegal entry of dogs into the United States. Permitting has facilitated the safe and timely entry of dogs into the United States for resale, while making an impact on monitoring illegal live dog importation and holding those importers who do not follow the AWA accountable. Of the 4,973 dogs APHIS reviewed for importation into the United States for the purposes of resale or adoption, approximately 9 percent of the dogs did not meet import requirements and were not eligible for an import permit.

Registered Research Facilities Activities

APHIS collaborates with the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration to help oversee the welfare of animals used in research. Although each Agency has distinct authorities and areas of responsibility, we work together to ensure laboratory animals receive the level of care required under Federal regulations. All three Agencies require research facilities to have an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Under the AWA, this oversight body is required to conduct facility inspections, investigate complaints of inhumane animal care, and approve or suspend animal research activity. Of the close to 16,500 entities regulated under the AWA in 2025, 897 are research facilities. In 2025, APHIS conducted nearly 1,200 unannounced inspections of research facilities.

For nearly a decade, USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has voluntarily registered animal research facilities with APHIS to promote animal welfare and maintained IACUCs. ARS has registered 48 AWA research facilities that are subject to unannounced compliance inspections. In 2025, APHIS conducted 58 unannounced inspections across all ARS facilities, and all facilities were found in compliance.

Outreach and Training Activities

In 2025, the Agency hosted or assisted with over 20 live, virtual, or hybrid events focused on animal welfare or various components of the AWA, including an avian enrichment webinar for animal caretakers, educators, breeders, veterinarians, animal health professionals, students, and anyone interested in avian enrichment and behavioral welfare of birds. These events enabled APHIS to connect with over 1,795 individuals across all 50 states, 3 territories, and 40 countries to discuss topics related to animal welfare. The Agency also posted on its website 14 new or updated outreach publications along with a web page focused on transportation. Focusing inwardly, APHIS provided internal staff with training to promote the consistency of compliance inspections. The Agency developed 22 self-paced virtual courses, presented five live in-person courses, and delivered eight hybrid courses.

Enforcement Activities

When APHIS inspectors identify noncompliance with AWA regulations, the Agency may establish a deadline for corrective action and increase the frequency of unannounced inspections to determine whether the facility made the necessary modifications. Continued, serious noncompliance may warrant enforcement action that can ranging from monetary penalties to suspension or revocation of the facility's license, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

In 2025, APHIS initiated 240 cases for alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), issued 275 official warnings, obtained 8 administrative orders resulting in the assessment of $5,500 in civil penalties, and suspended or revoked 3 licenses. For example, APHRE negotiated a pre-litigation settlement revoking the license of an exhibitor. In one case, working with OGC, APHRE obtained a Consent Decision and Order directing a breeder to cease and desist from violating the Animal Welfare Act and assessing a penalty of $1,000.

2. Horse Protection

Since 1970, APHIS has enforced the Horse Protection Act (HPA), a federal law aimed at ending the cruel and inhumane practice of soring and preventing unfair competition by making it unlawful to show, sell, or transport sore horses. Soring is a practice in which people apply mechanical devices and/or caustic chemicals to a horse's pasterns, which causes the horse to experience pain or distress while walking or moving. This practice is used primarily in training Tennessee Walking Horses, racking horses, and related breeds to produce a high stepping gait, which is prized at some competitive horse shows and other events. USDA conducts oversight of the program through evaluation of the performance of industry-licensed inspectors and conducting unannounced inspections at horse shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions.

Inspection Activities

Under the HPA, the management of horse shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions are responsible for ensuring that sored horses do not unfairly compete alongside horses that are not sore. If a horse is found to be sore, management has the responsibility of disqualifying them from participating in HPA-covered events.

During the first quarter of 2025, APHIS focused on implementing the revised HPA regulations, which the Agency published in 2024, including developing and delivering training to APHIS inspectors and new third-party inspectors whom horse show management could retain to conduct inspections at HPA-covered events. In January 2025, a court ruled on a pending lawsuit that challenged the legality of the 2024 revised HPA regulations and vacated all but two provisions of the revised regulations. In March 2025, APHIS issued a *Federal Register* notice postponing the effective date for the remaining provisions of the revised regulations to February 1, 2026, and seeking public comment on whether the effective date should be further postponed and any additional information that may inform such decision.

For the remainder of 2025, APHIS enforced the existing HPA regulations, which, among other things, allow horse show management to use industry-licensed inspectors that USDA-certified horse industry organizations (HIOs) train to inspect horses for compliance with the HPA. These industry-licensed inspectors are known as Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs). Although APHIS attended a select number of HPA-covered events to observe DQP performance and inspect horses for HPA compliance, in August 2025, a court issued an order that preliminarily enjoined the Agency from enforcing certain regulatory provisions and policies at specific events and against specific individuals. At the close of 2025, APHIS attended 13 horse events, inspected 314 horses, and of those inspected, identified 75 horses suspected of noncompliance with the HPA. The DQPs attended 191 HPA events and inspected 41,899 horse entries. In total, DQPs identified 555 HPA non-compliances, and management disqualified 536 entries. APHIS continues to provide event attendance related data on the APHIS website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/hpa.

As part of implementing the 2024 revised HPA regulations, the agency developed and presented an external horse protection webinar and developed 9 internal and 6 external horse protection training modules and assessments.

Enforcement Activities

The HPA authorizes APHIS to seek penalties for noncompliance with the Act, including civil penalties and periods of disqualification from participating in HPA-covered events. During 2025, APHIS obtained 10 administrative orders resulting in the assessment of $19,180 in civil penalties and the disqualification of 10 individuals and businesses from participating in activities regulated under the HPA for a period of 6 months to 32 months. APHIS will continue to post copies of enforcement records (such as initial decision and orders, default decisions, consent decisions, and administrative complaints) on its website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-care/awa-services/animal-welfare-horse-protection-actions.

AGENCY MANAGEMENT

Current Activities

The Agency Management programs support the daily operations of APHIS and provide a safe and secure work environment. These programs provide the information technology, space, and telecommunications infrastructure that gives Agency employees the tools they need to carry out their responsibilities. These programs also oversee and implement precautionary security measures for continued mission operations while ensuring the safety of APHIS people and facilities. In addition, these programs support APHIS' contribution to the U.S. Department of State's continuing implementation of the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program, which provides safe and secure workplaces for all U.S. government employees located overseas.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress in Agency Management:

1. APHIS Information Technology and Infrastructure

APHIS' Information Technology Infrastructure (AITI) is comprised of the hardware, software, cloud computing and cyber-security infrastructure that provides Agency employees with office automation tools, internet access, and access to mission-critical information technology (IT) programs and administrative applications. APHIS maintains, enhances, and operates the IT infrastructure to support Agency business, conduct research and analysis, carry out administrative processes, record program activities, and deliver program services. AITI objectives and priorities are to continually improve sharing of information across the Agency; improve integrity and accessibility of information, processes, and resources available to assist programs in emergencies; and improve APHIS' cyber-security. APHIS uses AITI funding to maintain annual software license and hardware agreements, cloud services, and for regular life-cycle replacement of enterprise hardware. The 2025 accomplishments listed below support these objectives.

License Renewal: APHIS supported over 8000 users with licensing for core telecommunications and office automation tools instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition for Return-To-Office procedures. Critical infrastructure licensing was also maintained that are key underlying components enabling APHIS' availability, cloud, and Cyber accomplishments.

Availability: APHIS supported internal and external stakeholders by providing optimal levels of service. The Agency continued to maintain 99 percent availability for its key computing systems in 2025. The AITI program also maintained application availability outside of the normal operational hours, on weekends, and holidays to ensure availability of systems. In 2025, the AITI program was enhanced along with the engineering and deployment of a new scientific and analytical platform. This served as the testing grounds for implementing new tools and practices that automate and orchestrate the work of IT itself, resulting in higher levels of availability and reduced IT manual workload.

Cloud Services: As a requirement of the Federal government's Data Center Optimization Initiative, APHIS has completed migration of all business applications from on-site data centers to the remote cloud servers. As of April 2019, APHIS closed all on-site Agency data centers. To date, APHIS mostly completed phase three of its cloud migration plan. Phase three focuses on further program data consolidation and enabling the ongoing development of cloud applications for new program mission needs. The Agency originally planned to complete the consolidation phase in 2023; however, system complexities delayed its completion. APHIS targeted 2025 to complete the consolidation phase, following the final migration of program data to the cloud, which is in its final stages. A major re-architecture of cloud networking and cyber security was completed in 2025 in support of the EIS2020 USDANet migration. This significantly improves network services, security, and operational management. In 2024, APHIS initiated several cloud optimization efforts resulting in greater efficiency and cost savings. Several major system redesigns also took place and will result in a reduction of costly software licensing. In 2025, a new FinOps (Cloud Financial Operations) system was implemented, providing improved cost transparency, traceability, and continuous cost analysis for savings opportunities. It is expected that these efforts will extend through and beyond 2026. Cloud services have allowed the Agency to continue monitoring and accessing business applications across the enterprise as well as offer seamless IT support for APHIS employees. In keeping with Departmental guidance, the Agency made strides via Microsoft cloud services on a project to process thousands of public comments in response to federal regulations, which historically required significant manual effort. APHIS worked closely with Program, Department, and Microsoft partners to implement a comprehensive solution that leverages MS Azure tools, designed and developed to be scalable, reusable, and to provide automation to typically manual tasks. APHIS also completed re-engineering a costly legacy custom application with high license, cloud, and operational support costs to an evergreen no-code/low-code platform, resulting an ongoing savings of over $2 million per year. All these efforts postures APHIS for implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities when resources become available.

Cybersecurity: APHIS maintained the current version of National Institute of Standards and Technology and Federal Information Security Modernization Act testing standards to continue

protecting our cybersecurity infrastructure and reducing vulnerabilities on our systems. APHIS also continued to secure our network communications through the management of web application firewall platforms, further increasing network security monitoring and protection. In 2025, this security system continued its success in providing technological threat insight, allowing the Agency to detect and block attempts of unauthorized access to APHIS systems at a faster and more accurate rate. Improved vulnerability management capabilities achieved through service and technology enhancements resulted in APHIS reducing all identified vulnerabilities by 34 percent as well as a 67 percent decrease in Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (KEVs).

Security Monitoring: APHIS successfully discovered and prevented multiple cybersecurity attacks via the integration of new security monitoring tools. The Agency prioritized the protection of our high value asset systems and kept those applications secure and available to our customers by averting successful attacks despite constant probing by malicious actors. Application development also benefited by incorporating secure coding best practices and by integrating an additional eighty projects into the existing security scanning platform. The Agency can continue to test existing and developed code in real-time to identify and mitigate potential security vulnerabilities and to reduce risks to our public and internal facing web applications. APHIS also developed and delivered privacy safety program improvements where employees received training on federal data privacy laws, data protection responsibilities including how to handle Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to protect confidential information that could potentially identify a specific individual. The Agency also incorporated technical security monitoring best practices through the integration of penetration testing remediation assistance services. This led to identifying over 300 vulnerabilities across 4 applications. The team has assisted in remediating 44 percent of those vulnerabilities and will continue monitoring remediation efforts throughout 2026. APHIS has expanded our internal security toolsets and added much needed cybersecurity expertise via both federal and contractor resources.

2. Physical Operational Security

APHIS oversees and implements precautionary measures to ensure continued, efficient mission operations, and protection from disruption, degradation, or destruction of its facilities through the Physical and Operational Security (POS) program. The POS program is responsible for overseeing safety programs, physical security, and Agency-wide readiness in response to agricultural and all-hazard emergencies. The program utilizes a government-wide approach to agricultural health issues affecting the Nation through preparedness, personnel security, and an array of safety initiatives. This includes providing year-round security measures, such as physical security upgrades, alarms, badging and identification systems, guard services, security assessments, safety and risk assessments, workplace violence training, and investigations of both internal and external threats. These measures protect APHIS employees, visitors, and stakeholders from harm, acts of terrorism, and violence. In addition, this program supports part of the USDA's contribution to the U.S. Department of State's continuing implementation of the Capital Security Cost Sharing program, which provides safe and secure workplaces for all government employees located overseas.

The POS program provides numerous security trainings for Agency employees. In 2025, the program provided training to almost 1,300 employees, including seminars relating to active shooter response, situational awareness, de-escalation, First Amendment Audit Training, and travel safety. The program also provided multiple security briefings for employees who work along the U.S.-Mexico border.

APHIS investigates, educates, assesses, and mitigates internal and external security threats directed at agency facilities, programs, and personnel. For example, APHIS focuses on employee security at or near the Mexican border, investigating threats and responding to requests for protection for APHIS employees who enforce regulations in this challenging environment. In 2025, APHIS investigated 51 external threats to its employees and 79 workplace violence incidents. APHIS also hosted one Workplace Violence training event with 54 employees in attendance.

The Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12) and Interagency Security Committee (ISC) directives create the standard for secure and reliable forms of identification for facility and network access and compliance regarding physical security at Federal facilities. In 2025, the POS program completed physical security assessments at 21 facilities using the updated ISC criteria and

USDA reporting format. The POS program provided security upgrades and repairs to 82 facilities. The POS program is also responsible for issuing, activating, or updating approximately 8,500 personal identification verification cards to USDA/APHIS and other federal personnel including contractors. In 2025, the POS program provided support to 13,819 MRP employees to ensure the Agency was in compliance with HSPD-12 and ISC standards.

APHIS security specialists investigate threats and respond to requests for protection throughout the country for APHIS veterinarians and inspectors who are enforcing regulations in challenging environments. In support of safety precautions for APHIS employees who enforce the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and Horse Protection Act (HPA), the POS program provided security support at 37 inspections of regulated AWA entities, and 13 HPA events.

The program also works with other USDA agencies, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of State, and local law enforcement agencies to ensure that the appropriate organization takes the lead, contributes to program costs, and integrates security where employees are co-located overseas. In 2025, APHIS had approximately 300 full-time employees based in countries around the world to facilitate agricultural trade and monitor pest and disease threats. The Security Embassy Construction Counterterrorism Act's Capital Security Cost Sharing Program requires the Agency to help fund the construction of new Embassy compounds based on the number of authorized positions, and APHIS provides a portion of the funds in the Physical and Operational Security line item to the U.S. Department of State for this cost. This program provides safe and secure diplomatic facilities for the Agency's overseas personnel.

3. Rent and Department of Homeland Security Payments

The Rental and Department of Homeland Security Payments account supports the Agency's costs associated with approximately 208 General Services Administration (GSA) leased facilities and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) payments. The funding allows APHIS programs to continue carrying out activities that safeguard the health and value of U.S. agriculture and natural resources, without diverting fiscal resources from operations to cover these costs. APHIS continues efforts to reduce and consolidate its office spaces. In 2024, APHIS decreased its Rentable Square Feet (RSF), resulting in an overall reduction of 176,013 RSF that equates to two percent reduction in RSF over the last year, primarily due to reducing from 6 floors to 3 floors in Riverdale, MD. In 2025, APHIS further decreased if RSF by 149,558 RSF by vacating the remaining floors of the Riverdale facility.

This account also funds the DHS/Federal Protective Service (FPS) basic and building specific security costs. In 2020, DHS/FPS began implementing a modified security billing process that was fully implemented by the end of 2022. This new security billing process uses the previous five years of actual security costs to develop an average basic security assessment billed to APHIS annually. These basic security costs, which include law enforcement activities and security alarm monitoring and dispatch, are projected to increase by ten percent in 2026. The increase is due to inflationary increases in costs for labor, supplies, and material. In addition to the basic security costs, APHIS is billed security costs for building specific services required to implement and maintain security requirements in accordance with standards set by the Interagency Security Committee, including contract guards and security equipment.

EMERGENCY FUNDED PROGRAMS

Selected Examples of Recent Progress in Emergency Funded Programs:

1. African Swine Fever

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease of domestic and wild pigs. There is no treatment or vaccine available in the United States. Currently, the only way to stop ASF is to depopulate all affected or exposed swine populations. Early detection is the key to controlling, containing, and eliminating ASF. While ASF has never been found in the United States and does not threaten public health, an introduction would devastate U.S. pork producers, their communities, and the economy, as well as the security of the pork supply. Research by Iowa State University has estimated that an ASF introduction could result in $75 billion in losses to the industry, including a cut

of 60,000 jobs, and pork prices could plummet by half and stay low for 3 years, with impacts for up to 10 years.

Protecting the health of domestic livestock herds to ensure profitability and supporting trade is a high priority for the Department. USDA confirmed ASF in the Dominican Republic (DR) in July 2021, and in Haiti in September 2021. In September 2021, APHIS received $500 million in emergency transfer funds to assist with the response to these detections, establish a protection zone in Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), and expand actions to prevent the introduction of the disease in the United States. To provide the best protection against further ASF spread, APHIS is assisting with a containment program in the DR and outreach, education and capacity building in the region, while simultaneously bolstering domestic preparedness and response efforts.

Continental U.S. Prevention Efforts

APHIS has numerous interlocking safeguards in place to prevent ASF from entering the United States and has been working closely with States and industry to develop and refine plans to rapidly respond and mitigate impacts in case of an outbreak. These safeguards include a surveillance program to rapidly detect ASF and serve as an early warning system; the ability to test large volumes of diagnostic samples through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network; enhanced work with the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at ports of entry targeting cargo, passengers and products from ASF-affected countries; increased detector dog teams to sniff out illegal products at key U.S. commercial sea and airports; and added import restrictions on pork and pork products from ASF-affected countries. APHIS' focus on domestic preparedness emphasizes surveillance and diagnostics, traceability, garbage feeding controls, depopulation tools and methods, and enhancing pre-clearance and arrival inspections. These priorities were identified through direct discussions with industry and States and in close collaboration with the National Pork Producers Council. APHIS collaborated with Federal, State and industry organizations to establish the vision and framework for an official USDA led U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). This initiative began as a pilot program and following rulemaking will establish a voluntary program for U.S. swine producers who meet and maintain defined standards around sampling, biosecurity and traceability to attain ASF- and CSF-monitored status. Similar to the National Poultry Improvement Program, this program's overarching goal is to elevate the health of the U.S. swine herd and support expedited reestablishment of international trade in the face of a disease outbreak. As of October 1, 2025, 12,600 sites in 38 states are enrolled in the program.

Since August 2, 2021, APHIS has tested 30,191 samples from higher risk domestic herds and 55,122 case-compatible commercial swine samples from veterinary diagnostic laboratories and slaughter facilities in the contiguous United States for ASF. Starting in 2023, and continuing in 2025, APHIS enhanced surveillance efforts by identifying opportunities to boost engagement within the exhibition swine industry through partnerships with the National Pork Board and Ohio State University. Based on the high risk of disease introduction through people and cargo moving from Hispaniola, APHIS has continued antigen- and antibody-based surveillance of feral swine in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. The Agency has also included the States along the U.S.-Mexico border in enhanced feral swine surveillance activities and has expanded antibody-based surveillance across the entire feral swine invaded range. APHIS tested more than 10,400 feral swine for ASF in these 10 states, while sampling 5,164 feral swine for antibodies across the rest of the invaded range.

APHIS continued to increase the National Veterinary Stockpile in 2025 by adding additional personal protective equipment and sampling supplies, as well as depopulation and disposal equipment, including incinerators, carcass bags, and captive bolt repair parts to boost preparedness and response capabilities. Leveraging Federal, State, industry and academic partnerships, APHIS continues to revise and update guidance documents within the ASF Response Plan, providing strategic guidance before and during an ASF outbreak for responders across all levels.

Protection Zone Efforts

APHIS continued to enforce an ASF protection zone in PR and the USVI in 2025 under the parameters outlined by the World Organization for Animal Health. This protection zone, along with existing comprehensive import restrictions and safeguards, strengthen the Agency's ability to protect the U.S. swine herd while avoiding trade restrictions by countries that recognize the protection zone if ASF is detected in either PR or the USVI. APHIS conducts an ongoing pre-departure inspection program in PR to prevent pests and diseases from entering the continental United States; passenger baggage and cargo are inspected. APHIS works with CBP to conduct similar inspections in the USVI. To support the ASF protection zone, APHIS enhanced pre-departure activities by adding temporary staff, canine detector teams, and x-ray machines, as well as conducting training for staff inspecting animal products in addition to the ongoing focus on plant pests and diseases. In 2025, the Agency conducted 1,872 Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) market surveys in the protection zone to identify potential regulated or prohibited products and ensure its removal from the marketplace. The SITC market surveys resulted in 2 seizures originating from China, weighing a total of 15 pounds in 2025. SITC also conducts trade verification activities at express courier locations in the continental United States as a backstop to inspection activities in the protection zone. Since the establishment of the protection zone, APHIS has intercepted and destroyed more than 245,000 pounds of pork and pork products in the protection zone--products that otherwise would have reached the U.S. mainland, threatening swine production in the Continental United States.

Illegal boat landings pose a potential pathway for ASF as these landings can facilitate the illegal introduction of pork products into the protection zone. In 2025, APHIS responded to 64 reported illegal boat landings within the protection zone, recovering a total of 453 pounds of animal products. Since August 1, 2021, APHIS has responded to a total of 481 illegal boat landings, recovering a total of 2,885 pounds of animal products. When inspectors find prohibited pork products, they dispose of them in accordance with approved safeguarding practices.

In addition, APHIS staff removed over 701 feral swine in PR and the USVI, for a total of more than 6,500 animals since August 2021. APHIS sampled 416 feral swine in 2025 and continues to remove feral swine as well as test for possible ASF introductions. APHIS maintained enhanced surveillance in the protection zone, testing 13,329 samples collected on-farm and 9,973 slaughter samples from over 500 premises in PR.

Within the protection zone, APHIS has maintained heightened levels of surveillance, targeting garbage feeders and premises within three kilometers of illegal boat landings; continued outreach and education; and sustained feral swine removal activities. In 2025, APHIS convened a Caribbean Protection Zone Assessment and Long-Term Strategy Working Group to assess current activities and develop a long-term strategy for the ASF Protection Zone in the Caribbean. The work of this group is ongoing.

International Efforts

In 2025, APHIS continued to support the DR's ASF response through technical assistance and subject matter expertise to transition operations from an emergency response posture to a long-term strategy for containment of ASF on Hispaniola, thereby preventing ASF from spreading outside the DR, particularly to the United States. A key component of the strategy included strengthening predeparture inspections of travelers leaving the DR for the United States in order to identify and confiscate pork products that may pose a risk of contamination of the U.S pork industry. APHIS deployed 35 detector dogs across 4 major airports and at the ferry terminal between DR and San Juan, PR. These deployments led to detection, confiscation, and incineration of more than 23,000 pounds of illegal pork products.

Contamination via international garbage poses a major risk of spread of ASF. To address the risk, APHIS improved handling and disposition processes for international garbage in the DR by providing training to inspectors and working to establish 12 total incinerators throughout the DR. This includes two incinerators at smaller international airports, 4 incinerators at land border crossings between the DR and Haiti, and six large scale incinerators at high-risk air and maritime ports. APHIS also continued

support for outreach campaigns leveraging radio, traditional and digital media, as well as social media with messages targeting travelers from DR to the US from traveling with pork products. The new long-term strategy in the DR also focuses on improving farm biosecurity to prevent the spread and maintain ASF prevalence low in both commercial and subsistence farms. In 2025 APHIS, in partnership with the DR Ministry of Agriculture and international and regional partners, established a farm biosecurity certification program and an associated biosecurity fund to support improvement of on-farm biosecurity practices with both financial and technical assistance. In 2025, APHIS and its partners certified 17 large commercial farms. Surveillance data collected to date indicates that despite high incidents of ASF in commercial pork production areas, certified farms have remained ASF-free. APHIS plans to continue this strategy into 2026.

APHIS continues to strengthen regional surveillance and emergency preparedness capacities across the Caribbean to ensure rapid detection of any new ASF incursions. In 2025, APHIS hosted several pilots with a total of 9 countries in the Caribbean impacted: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Curacao, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Lucia. St. Vincent and Surinam. These training events were focused on ASF surveillance and diagnostics for field veterinarians and technicians. These sessions featured seminars by subject matter experts from the United States, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana and St. Lucia. The training included hands-on instruction in the use of Molecular Transport Medium (MTM) in combination with sample pooling for ASF diagnostics. A total of 233 participants from these 9 countries received this training. Caribbean partners have initiated passive surveillance since August 2024. APHIS, in agreement with FAS and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), conducted two trainings, including table-top exercises, in Kansas State University and Mexico to teach a total of 80 veterinarians about surveillance for early detection, and rapid response in the event of an incursion event to the countries of the Caribbean and Andean region. APHIS and IICA began the discussion of compensation for producers affected by ASF in the Caribbean region during CARICOM Week of Agriculture with a total 46 participants.

Outreach Efforts

APHIS continued to effectively execute and manage two outreach campaigns - "Pigs Don't Fly" and "Protect Our Pigs" - to increase awareness among international and domestic travelers and producers and veterinarians, respectively, about the steps they can take to keep ASF out of the U.S. Our Federal and State partners continue to amplify the "Protect Our Pigs" and "Pigs Don't Fly" outreach campaigns, helping to extend our reach. The international traveler campaign, "Pigs Don't Fly", ran digital ads at the top 25 busiest U.S. airports and in social media, urging travelers not to bring pork and pork products into the United States from abroad or from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to the U.S. mainland. We also placed physical and digital signage in nine international airports — JFK, LAX, Miami, Chicago O'Hare, Atlanta, Newark, San Juan, St. Croix, and St. Thomas — where passengers were most likely to bring prohibited pork products to the United States. Through the "Protect Our Pigs" campaign, we carried out social and digital media outreach; ran ads in publications like the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Farm Journal, and Pig Progress; placed geographically targeted radio ads; and sponsored events like the American Royal Livestock Show, National Junior Swine Association, and American Association of Swine Veterinarians, to reach producers, veterinarians, pig owners, and youth.. We will continue these activities in 2026, including targeted efforts to engage hunters, youth (FFA and 4H members) and Protection Zone residents.

2. Bovine Tuberculosis

In 2025, APHIS obligated $1.472 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funds (CCC) on tuberculosis (TB) eradication activities. APHIS uses a mix of depopulation and test-and-removal strategies to address bovine TB-affected herds. These strategies consider herd size, potential indemnity costs, State and owner preferences, genetics, and the probability of removing infection. During 2025, four new TB positive cattle herds (two dairy herds and two beef herds) were identified and placed under quarantine. One beef herd was depopulated, and the other three herds are being managed under test-and-remove protocols, in cooperation with State animal health agencies. APHIS and State animal health agencies are also conducting trace investigations related to these herds. APHIS used CCC funds

to depopulate a herd, and to conduct test-and-remove protocols in accordance with each herd's management plan, as well as test and remove animals during trace investigations.

The detection of TB-affected cattle and herds demonstrates the effectiveness of APHIS' surveillance system. To respond to TB detections, APHIS works closely with State animal health officials to quickly identify any cattle that may have come into contact with the infected herds and conduct thorough trace back investigations. Through these slaughter surveillance efforts, the program detected TB in six cattle in 2025, two of which traced to Mexican origin animals, two to Texas, one to New Mexico, and one to South Dakota. Of the four affected herds in 2025, two were found from slaughter in 2025, one from slaughter late in 2024 and one through area testing in the Michigan Modified Accredited Zone. State animal health officials work closely with the herd owners involved, as well as the state dairy and beef industries, to ensure the disease is quickly contained, and affected owners can return to normal business practices as soon as possible.

3. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

In 2025, APHIS obligated approximately $808 million in emergency funding to address nationwide detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). HPAI is an internationally reportable disease when in commercial flocks. It is a serious disease that requires rapid response because it is highly contagious, often fatal to poultry, and can spread rapidly, causing a loss of farm income and potential negative trade impacts. On February 8, 2022, APHIS confirmed the presence of HPAI in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana, the first confirmed case of HPAI in U.S. commercial poultry since 2020. As of September 30, 2025, APHIS has confirmed the presence of HPAI in more than 1,811 commercial and backyard flocks in 50 States and 1 U.S. territory, affecting 183 million birds. Of the affected flocks, 968 were backyard flocks and 843 were commercial flocks. This is largest animal health outbreak in U.S. history.

In 2025, APHIS coordinated the collection and laboratory analysis of 40,805 wild bird samples from wild waterfowl in priority watersheds in all four flyways. This total consisted of 35,685 samples from routine targeted surveillance, 4,873 samples from targeted wild bird surveillance around HPAI-infected dairy and poultry premises. The sample collection from HPAI-infected dairy and poultry premises was funded through HPAI emergency funds, while the sample collections from routine surveillance and the spring enhanced surveillance were funded though the Avian Health line item. As of September 30, 2025, there had been approximately 14,700 wild bird detections across all 50 States and Washington, DC. Genetic sequencing of these samples revealed multiple introductions of HPAI viruses from outside the United States and helped inform whether poultry outbreaks resulted from point source introductions or lateral farm-to-farm spread.

APHIS expanded its Wildlife Biosecurity Assessment (WBA) pilot project to a national level in 2025, building on the 2024 implementation in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Additional WBAs were initiated in 26 States and were implemented with multiple goals including identifying wildlife prevalence near poultry facilities, identifying physical repairs and exclusions needed to stop interaction between wildlife and domestic poultry, identifying habitat management and other technical assistance recommendations that could be implemented to reduce attractiveness to wildlife, and conducting limited wildlife control in areas with excessive wildlife in and around poultry barns.

APHIS also expanded its biosecurity assessment program to promote operational biosecurity that evaluates a facility's implementation of its biosecurity plans and in some cases mandates a biosecurity audit prior to restocking birds on or near infected farms to preserve eligibility for biosecurity. More information about the programs offered can be found at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-poultry/biosecurity-assessments. APHIS updates the list of poultry biosecurity assessments completed since January 20, 2025 at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-poultry/biosecurity-assessments/dashboard. The data at that link provides a state-by-state view of the assessments completed, as well as type of assessment and the premises production type. As of November 13, 2025, APHIS has completed 1,844 total poultry biosecurity assessments, including 985 wildlife biosecurity assessments on poultry farms and 859 domestic biosecurity assessments completed on poultry farms.

The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world. The surveillance program includes wild bird populations, live bird markets, backyard flocks, and National Poultry Improvement Plan program participants, which consists of nearly all commercial facilities in the United States. APHIS has been working with its partners to respond to detections by following Federal and State HPAI response plans, which include implementing quarantine restrictions, depopulating affected flocks, eliminating the virus from affected premises, and conducting surveillance in surrounding areas. APHIS' response plan for HPAI in birds is based on the concept of stamping out, with the goal of eradicating the virus from domestic poultry. The current outbreak is unprecedented, largely since wild birds have continued to serve as the reservoir for the virus as opposed to the lateral spread in the 2015 outbreak. APHIS' primary prevention tools are related to farm-level biosecurity. In addition to ensuring that farm facilities are physically secure from pests, including wild birds, producers also focus on limiting movements of people and equipment onto farms and establishing lines of separation so that the birds are not exposed to potentially contaminated materials. APHIS requires that certain commercial facilities implement biosecurity plans before being eligible for indemnity payments. These biosecurity plans have proved to be especially important for the current response since the rate of lateral spread is much lower than previously observed. The current outbreak would have been several times larger if lateral spread occurred as frequently as it did in 2015.

Communication with trading partners is essential to maintaining confidence in U.S. animal health systems and ensuring continuity of market access. APHIS trade personnel provide animal disease detection and closeout reports to trading partners to support the maintenance or re-establishment of trade (exports). This proactive communication strengthens trust with trading partners, accelerates the reopening of markets following outbreaks, and protects the economic viability of U.S. poultry and livestock industries.

In 2025, APHIS announced the launch of the HPAI Poultry Innovation Grand Challenge, committing $100 million to advance prevention, therapeutics, vaccine development, and biosecurity research. This initiative represents one of the largest federal investments ever made to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza and underscores APHIS' commitment to science-based innovation. Through this effort, APHIS engaged vaccine manufacturers, universities, producer organizations, and research partners to explore novel approaches to deal with the challenge HPAI response presents. The Grand Challenge will support enhanced surveillance and biosecurity tools, including rapid diagnostics, environmental monitoring, ultraviolet-C technologies, and innovative farm-level interventions to reduce barn-to-barn spread and improve early detection. Funding levels for each project will be announced in early 2026. These projects strengthen domestic preparedness and reinforce confidence among trading partners. The Grand Challenge complements APHIS' stamping-out strategy and farm-level biosecurity requirements, ensuring that prevention and response measures evolve alongside our current response operations.

Dairy Cattle

APHIS confirmed the first detection of HPAI in a Texas dairy herd on March 25, 2024. As of September 30th, 2025, HPAI had been confirmed in 1,082 cases across 19 States. Since the initial detection of HPAI in dairy cattle, USDA has worked quickly with Federal and State partners to trace animal movements, assess disease prevalence in herds, initiate various testing activities to confirm the safety of the meat and milk supplies, and roll out numerous support programs for dairy producers.

In 2024, APHIS announced a Federal Order requiring testing for all dairy cattle before interstate movement and mandatory reporting of positive Influenza A cases in livestock. Following the Federal Order, USDA established the Dairy Herd Status Program, a voluntary program that offers dairy producers the option to monitor their herds via weekly bulk milk samples before moving them interstate, without having to test each individual animal. This helps support ongoing HPAI testing to better understand the virus, reduce the risk of further spread, and meet movement restrictions. APHIS aims to test every dairy operation in the country to fully understand exactly how prevalent HPAI is in the U.S. dairy herd. Dairy producers who choose to enroll their herds agree to weekly herd testing. After 3 consecutive weeks of negative test results for HPAI the herd receives a monitored unaffected herd status. Continued weekly bulk tank sample testing with negative results and

participation in the Dairy Herd Status Program allows the herd to maintain the monitored unaffected herd status and move animals' interstate without additional individual animal premovement testing currently required under the Federal Order. Incentives to sign up for weekly testing include free rapid influenza A testing kits, personal protective equipment for farmers and farm workers, equipment and supplies to aid in testing and improve biosecurity, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting options, and biosecurity assessments. At the end of 2025, 124 dairy herds across 21 States were enrolled in the program.

In addition to the voluntary Dairy Herd Status Program, APHIS offered financial support to help dairy producers enhance biosecurity and offset costs associated with Influenza A testing, veterinary expenses, personal protective equipment purchases, milk disposal, and milk losses. Producers would choose which incentives work best for their operation, but could include: a free 20-pack of rapid influenza A tests that producers can use to help quickly determine if HPAI is present, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or reimbursing for laundry service to ensure farm workers do not bring infected clothing home, equipment and supplies that will aid in testing and improved biosecurity, such as an in-line sampler to easily allow for random samples from bulk milk tanks, enhancing cleaning and disinfecting at dairy operations, payments to dispose of milk in a bio secure fashion, reimbursing producers for the cost of supportive veterinary care for cattle testing positive for H5N1, and biosecurity assessments to draft a premises biosecurity plan.

4. Exotic Fruit Fly

Fruit flies in the family Tephritidae pose the greatest risk to U.S. agriculture. This family of fruit flies includes Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly), Oriental fruit fly (OFF), and many others. In 2025, the Secretary of Agriculture transferred $129,200,653 in emergency funding to APHIS for exotic fruit fly outbreaks in the United States, as well as a Medfly outbreak in Guatemala and Mexico that threatened the international suppression zone that protects the United States from the northward spread of Medfly.

California and Texas Response: In 2025, APHIS obligated approximately $80 million for domestic emergency response. At the end of 2024, APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) detected two outbreaks in California—Medfly in Fremont and OFF in Garden Grove. The resulting quarantines covered 301 square miles, including 53.5 acres of commercial agriculture. The detection of these two outbreaks, as well as two additional outbreaks detected in 2025, followed two years of significantly higher-than-average fruit fly detections and subsequent outbreaks. During 2024, APHIS and CDFA had responded to and eradicated seven outbreaks. APHIS and CDFA responded to the new detections during 2025 with quarantine restrictions to prevent the movement of host materials with the potential to spread fruit flies to new areas, delimitation trapping to determine the extent of the incursions, control of fruit fly populations using chemical treatments of an organic pesticide (GF 120 bait sprays), host removal, and sterile Medfly releases to suppress fruit fly population growth. The program also continued outreach efforts to increase public awareness of restrictions on the movement of hosts from quarantine areas and how the public can assist with mitigating the pest in quarantine areas as well as prevent future outbreaks. In 2025, CDFA and APHIS eradicated the Medfly and OFF outbreaks detected at the end of 2024, releasing the 301 square mile quarantine area.

In August 2025, APHIS and CDFA detected a Medfly outbreak in Santa Clara County, California, which covers approximately 170 square miles. The quarantine covers mostly residential areas but includes 44 acres of commercial agriculture. In September 2025, APHIS and CDFA detected an OFF outbreak in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in California. The 131 square mile quarantine also covers mostly residential areas and includes ten acres of commercial grape production. APHIS and CDFA are responding to the outbreaks with the tools and strategies listed above.

APHIS is also responding to Mexfly outbreaks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, home to the Texas citrus industry, which faces continual Mexfly pressure from endemic populations in Mexico. During 2025, the program detected and responded to ten outbreaks with sterile Mexfly releases and other tools similar to those used for the Medfly outbreaks listed above. During the year, the quarantine boundaries expanded, and some quarantines merged—at their largest, the quarantines

covered 1,328 square miles. By the end of the fiscal year, the program had reduced the square miles under quarantine to 143 square miles.

The domestic Mexfly program is transitioning its production of sterile Mexfly to a strain that will enable the sterile release program to conduct more efficient male-only releases in Texas. In 2025, the program initiated projects to reconfigure the sterile insect production facility and optimize rearing procedures for the new strain. However, a fire in October 2025 damaged the facility, thereby halting rearing of sterile Mexfly. The program is evaluating necessary repairs and modifying program field activities to enhance detection and mitigation of wild Mexfly incursions. The international, cooperative MOSCAMED program, which also produces Mexfly, is providing sterile pupae to ensure continuity of the sterile insect releases to protect domestic commercial citrus in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The program continues to make other urgent repairs to the Texas facility which, in addition to sterile insect production, supports the aerial release component of the sterile Mexfly preventive release program over the Lower Rio Grande Valley, including repairing the hanger and runway for sterile fly release operations and replacing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in the production facility.

Mexico and Guatemala Response: In 2025, APHIS continued responding to a Medfly outbreak in Chiapas, Mexico, and neighboring areas of Guatemala that threatened the buffer that APHIS and cooperating countries established against the northward spread of the pest. The program used approximately $14 million of the emergency funding for the MOSCAMED Commission to increase sterile insect production and release capacity and other control activities as well as support the domestic/northern Mexico sterile Mexfly release effort.

In 2025, APHIS enhanced Medfly outbreak response across Chiapas, Mexico, and adjacent regions in Guatemala and maximize emergency preparedness. This investment enabled the MOSCAMED program to increase sterile insect production and release by 530 million pupae per week, representing a 45 percent increase in Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) operations, and reducing wild Medfly captures in the region to their lowest rate since 2014. El Pino's SIT production capacity has scaled up to 1.4 billion pupae per week, with continued initiatives targeting maximum capacity of 1.8 billion pupae per week in 2026. El Pino's packing and release facility doubled capacity from 100 million to 200 million and is preparing to reach 300 million in 2026. At the Retalhuleu Medfly packing and release facility, APHIS increased the capacity from 880 million to 990 million, with a plan to further increase capacity to 1.1 billion in 2026. These increases, facilitated using emergency funding, ensure a weekly production potential of 1.8 billion pupae per week, and packing and release potential of up to 1.4 billion sterile Medflies per week in 2026. The increase in SIT capacity will bolster domestic emergency response operations as well as preventive operations in Mexico and Guatemala and offer greater protection to American farmers. On the ground, the program complemented aerial SIT release with targeted treatments, including 70,000 acres of GF-120 bait spraying; removal and safe disposal of 3,900 pounds of infested fruit; deployment of 22,000 wax bait stations; and installation and consistent service of 54 traps in previously unmonitored zones. These activities bolster the program's ability to prevent the spread of Medfly northward towards the United States.

5. New World Screwworm

In 2025, the Secretary transferred additional funding to APHIS for a multi-year effort to address the growing number of outbreaks of the new world screwworm (NWS) in Central America. The NWS outbreaks began in 2023 in Panama and Costa Rica, crossing into Mexico in late 2024. Since that time, APHIS has taken multiple actions to ensure domestic preparedness and is also working with Mexico and other partners to respond to the outbreak in that country to stop the northward movement of the parasite and to protect U.S. producers and the public.

In 2025, APHIS deployed strike teams in Mexico to conduct field surveillance, implement quarantine measures, and provide technical expertise on the ground. Strike teams also focused on domestic preparedness efforts; in 2025, APHIS personnel constructed 956 fly traps for nationwide use as part of the screwworm emergency response. Beginning July 23, strike teams deployed 120 traps at pre-identified strategic sites along the U.S.–Mexico border, covering 12 counties across Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. These traps are serviced twice weekly, with teams collecting flies and rebaiting as needed based on environmental conditions. APHIS also leveraged fruit fly traps in place

near the Texas border with Mexico. Suspect flies are submitted to the NVSL laboratory in Ames, Iowa for diagnostic identification. As of the end of 2025, NVSL has identified over 20,000 possible flies, and identified zero NWS from these traps. In addition, APHIS examined wildlife captured in high-risk counties in Texas for signs of NWS infestation. As of September 30, 2025, more than 2,000 wild animals have been examined, with no evidence of NWS. This systematic surveillance effort provides early detection capability and ensures rapid diagnostic confirmation, reinforcing APHIS' ability to protect U.S. livestock from the re-introduction of screwworm.

Although Mexico continues to confirm new cases of NWS, the overwhelming majority as of September 30, 2025, remain in the far southern part of the country, with no significant northward expansion in the last several months of 2025. The northernmost detections (approximately 70 and 170 miles from the U.S. border) occurred in Nuevo León in young cattle transported from Chiapas, Mexico. While the ideal number of cases in the northern parts of the country is zero, Mexico's ability to conduct rapid surveillance and notification has ensured these transportation-related cases remain isolated incidents. APHIS had personnel in place at each of these locations in a matter of hours, and the agency continues to coordinate sterile insect transport and release at prioritized locations in Mexico and is providing close oversight on nearby surveillance activities.

On August 19, USDA and Mexico's agriculture authority, SENASICA, signed a collaborative NWS Action Plan with detailed actions about trapping, surveillance, and movement protocols that will help stop the spread of the parasite. The plan allows for U.S. audits of Mexico's response. USDA is also helping SENASICA to implement a more risk-based trapping plan, with the installation of 960 traps north of the current Mexican aerial dispersal zone. USDA has assisted Mexico with hiring over 200 surge staff for fly trapping and animal movement controls within Mexico, and the Mexican government has authorized 168 NWS checkpoints for official inspections, preventative treatment, and wound care. These immediate response protocols have resulted in at least 7,245 animals within Mexico receiving timely treatment for NWS. Southern U.S. ports of entry remain closed to livestock imports as part of ongoing efforts to maintain robust safeguards

Mass production and targeted dispersal of sterile flies are critical components of an effective response. USDA continued to produce 100 million sterile flies per week from the COPEG facility in Panama (up from 20 million weekly production levels before this emergency response) and is investing $21 million to support Mexico's renovation of an existing fruit fly facility in Metapa—which will double NWS production capacity once complete. With ongoing support from APHIS, Mexico anticipates this sterile fly production to begin as soon as summer 2026. To expand our domestic response capacity, USDA has also begun construction on a sterile fly dispersal facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, TX that is projected to begin operating in early 2026. APHIS is also expediting design and construction of a sterile fly production facility in Southern Texas, with a targeted maximum capacity of 300 million sterile flies per week. Once combined with the 200 million sterile flies from COPEG and Mexico's facility, the program's capacity will approach the approximately 500 million sterile flies per week that USDA produced when it successfully eradicated NWS populations from large swaths of the United States in the 1960s and 1970s.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved new therapeutic tools that are effective against this pest, in case cases are confirmed in U.S. animals. Furthermore, USDA has committed up to $100 million towards breakthrough technologies through the NWS Grand Challenge, which will solicit ideas to develop new therapeutics, enhance sterile fly production, and advance NWS traps and lures. USDA is also exploring the suitability and effectiveness of technologies like e-beam and x-ray sterilization and genetically engineered flies.

USDA conducted extensive U.S. training efforts and over 50 stakeholder meetings, increasing regional awareness of NWS and enabling more comprehensive suspect case reporting and response. Outreach and response materials, including the NWS Disease Response Strategy, are ensuring coordination between USDA, states, and industry in advance of a U.S. case. APHIS shared the NWS Response Playbook, an operational plan with detailed strategies of how USDA will work with States and other partners if NWS is detected within the borders. USDA is collaborating closely with the following agencies to ensure a unified federal response to NWS: Department of the Interior, Department of

Energy, Department of War, Department of State, Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Customs and Border Protection, Food and Drug Administration, and others.

6. Rabies

In 2024, APHIS redirected $18.8 million in emergency transfer fund balances from prior emergencies to address rabies outbreaks that led to contingency actions in Alabama, Maine, and Vermont as well as six high-risk areas. Contingency actions are considered an emergency response activity typically for three consecutive years as a timely and more aggressive management response is essential to reducing the risk of further rabies spread in novel areas. In prior years, APHIS has been able to support contingency actions using appropriated funding, but increasing operating costs, the depletion of the previously existing vaccine bait stockpile, and an increasing number of contingency actions depleted these available resources. With the available emergency funding, APHIS is doubling vaccine bait density and increasing bait distribution to twice a year as needed to restore the integrity of the oral rabies vaccination zone. In 2025, APHIS completed contingency action response activities in Alabama with no further rabies detections beyond the rabies management zone and continued second year response activities in Maine and Vermont. APHIS also replenished the rabies vaccine bait stockpile back to its normal operating level of 4 million baits ensuring an adequate supply for response activities.

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Selected Examples of Recent Progress in Farm Bill Programs:

1. Farm Bill – Plant Protection Act, Section 7721

The Agricultural Act of 2014 consolidated two of APHIS' Farm Bill programs under Section 10007: Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program (PPDMDPP) and the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). This authority was codified in Section 7721 of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) and authorizes permanent funding for the PPDMDPP and NCPN. The One Big Beautiful Bill (P.L. 119-21) increased funding for the program from $75 million per year $90 million per year starting in 2026. Through the program, APHIS funds projects that enhance its ability to safeguard agriculture and facilitate safe agricultural trade. Cooperators nationwide use this funding to strengthen pest exclusion systems, optimize domestic pest management and eradication programs, keep commodities moving in commerce without spreading pests and diseases, and expand market opportunities abroad for U.S. products. This work is critical to the USDA mission on many fronts, helping American agriculture thrive across the country and around the world. Since 2009, APHIS has supported more than 5,800 projects and provided more than $940 million in funding through the PPDMDPP. Collectively, these projects allow APHIS and its cooperators to strengthen and safeguard the nation's agricultural infrastructure against invasive plant pests and diseases. In addition, the NCPN provides reliable sources of pathogen-free planting stock of high-value specialty crops. Since 2009, the NCPN, through its agreements program, has provided close to $96 million for 355 clean plant programs plus supporting initiatives in 18 States and Puerto Rico. The NCPN supports commodities, including fruit trees, grapes, citrus, berries, hops, sweet potatoes, and roses.

Plant Pest and Disease Management: APHIS and cooperators have identified six major strategic goal areas (the first with two sub-goals) to implement Plant Pest and Disease Management efforts: 1A) enhancing plant pest/disease analysis; 1S) enhancing plant pest survey; 2) targeting domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points; 3) enhancing pest identification tools and technology; 4) safeguarding nursery production; 5) conducting targeted outreach and education; and 6) enhancing mitigation and rapid response capabilities. In 2025, the program funded 339 overarching projects, supporting 466 cooperative agreements, interagency agreements, and internal projects. The agreements support activities conducted by a variety of Federal, State, academic, Tribal, and private entity stakeholders.

Enhance Plant Pest/Disease Analysis, Goal 1A: Under this goal, APHIS supports projects that compile, synthesize, or evaluate data to inform or enhance risk and pathway analysis, surveillance methodology, or resource prioritization. Examples include the development of analytical models to

identify and prioritize exotic pests for survey and response and improving risk modeling and monitoring for invasive pests. In 2025, the program provided approximately $2 million for 17 agreements and internal projects in this goal area.

Enhance Plant Pest Survey, Goal 1S: Under this goal, APHIS supports surveys for multiple high-risk pests not known to be established in the United States and pests of concern to cooperators. These surveys protect and help agricultural producers and nursery owners avoid control costs through more rapid and thorough detection of invasive pests that threaten their operations. Examples of plant pest surveys funded through goal 1S include Asian defoliator moths, cyst nematodes, and exotic bark beetles. Commodity surveys, including those focused on citrus, solanaceous plants, nursery stock, grapes, and orchards, are also funded through goal 1S. In 2025, the program provided approximately $11.6 million for 185 agreements and internal projects in this goal area.

Target Domestic Inspection Activities at Vulnerable Points, Goal 2: Under this goal, APHIS supports domestic inspection activities at high-risk sites (e.g., warehouses and parcel facilities), inspects regulated articles moving interstate, and uses trained canine detection teams to improve detection capabilities. Developing these cooperative efforts with State agriculture regulatory agencies helps minimize impacts on producers and distributors of agricultural commodities. In 2025, the program continued to support canine team efforts in California, Florida, and Guam. The use of canine teams enhances the capacity for early detection and better response to exotic pests found during surveys; increases liaisons between State and Federal cooperators by reviewing, developing, and implementing educational programs; provides additional resources at high-risk areas within the State for inspection; and benefits inspections at parcel service locations to enhance interdiction efforts. In 2025, the program provided approximately $6 million for nine agreements and internal projects in this goal area.

Enhance Pest Identification Tools and Technology, Goal 3: Under this goal, APHIS supports the ongoing development of improvements in pest identification and detection. This includes improved identification capacity and taxonomic understanding of groups of organisms, taxonomic support for surveys targeting high-consequence pests, and the development of pest detection technology. Funding supported taxonomic and identification improvements for pests, including the select agent *Coniothyrium glycines*, several citrus pests, plant parasitic nematodes, exotic bark beetles, and fruit flies. APHIS also provided funding to optimize trap and lure combinations and a molecular protocol for identification of any life stage of the invasive two spotted cotton leafhopper (formerly known as the cotton jassid). In 2025, the program provided approximately $5 million for 54 agreements and internal projects in support of this goal.

Safeguard Nursery Production, Goal 4: Under this goal, APHIS supports projects to develop science-based best management practices and risk mitigation practices to exclude, contain, and control regulated pests from the nursery production chain, and to develop and harmonize audit-based nursery certification programs. These activities help small producers and distributors establish best management practices for mitigating pest risks, reducing operational costs, and enhancing the value of nursery stock they produce. Examples of projects funded in 2025 include the development of integrated pest management methods and regulatory treatment tools to suppress and slow the spread of box tree moth, including evaluation of trap and lure efficacy and the effectiveness of mating disruption as a management tool. APHIS also provided funding to continue survey and testing of all certified blocks of *Prunus* spp. participating in the Washington Certified Nursery Stock Program to improve the practices of the nursery industry to best identify and remove little cherry disease (LCD) infected plant material from mother blocks (scion and rootstock). Additionally, APHIS provided funding to assess the effectiveness of different netting materials and mesh sizes to develop a set of science-based recommendations for netting protocols that can be adopted by cherry nurseries and growers to reduce the incidence of LCD and improve crop health. In 2025, the program provided approximately $2 million for 17 agreements and internal projects in this goal area.

Conduct Targeted Outreach and Education, Goal 5: Under this goal, APHIS works to engage the public in early detection efforts by strengthening existing volunteer networks. APHIS emphasizes efforts that can lead to behavior changes among the public and the regulated community to prevent the

introduction or spread of high-consequence pests into and throughout the United States. Projects in this goal area included projects addressing capacity needs in Native American Tribes by enhancing awareness and knowledge to prevent the introduction and spread of high-consequence pests into and throughout Tribal lands in Maine, Washington, and Wisconsin. Several projects continued in 2025 including nationwide campaigns raising awareness of invasive species, such as the PlayCleanGo Campaign to stop the spread of invasive species through recreational activities, the Hungry Pests campaign that educates and engages the public on preventing the spread of invasive pests, a variety of projects in multiple States targeting awareness of forest pest outreach, northern giant hornet (formerly referred to as Asian giant hornet) community outreach and education, and multiple outreach campaigns for spotted lanternfly (SLF). In 2025, the program provided $4.6 million for 55 agreements and internal projects in this goal area.

Enhance Mitigation and Rapid Response Capabilities, Goal 6: Under the goal of enhancing mitigation capabilities, APHIS provides technical assistance prior to, during, and immediately following a plant pest outbreak, develops new mitigation tools and strategies, and increases emergency preparedness through the development of New Pest Response Guidelines and Incident Command System training. Some of these efforts provide continued support for developing new methods or treatments for economically significant pests, including spotted lanternfly, fruit flies, wood boring and bark beetles, mollusks, and coffee berry borer, among others. These efforts also support the development of biological control projects for pests including Brazilian peppertree, spotted wing drosophila, air potato, cogongrass, and emerald ash borer, among others. Under this goal area, the program also supported rapid response activities for a variety of pest and disease outbreaks, including coconut rhinoceros beetle in Hawaii, mollusks in Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, and yellow legged hornet in Georgia and South Carolina. APHIS also supported the nationwide effort to survey for and control spotted lanternfly throughout the East Coast and mid-west, including Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Additionally, APHIS supported box tree moth monitoring and regulation activities in Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. In 2025, the program provided $26 million for 129 agreements and internal projects in this goal area.

National Clean Plant Network (NCPN): In 2025, APHIS used $8 million in PPA 7721 funds to provide NCPN support to qualified clean plant centers through a cooperative agreements program. The application process allowed stakeholders to offer input into projects proposed for funding through pre-proposals, which are designed to help clean plant centers prioritize and harmonize their resourcing requests. As a result, APHIS entered into agreements for 18 projects with clean plant centers and supporting initiatives in 13 States. The clean plant centers that receive NCPN funding use the resources to: 1) diagnose for harmful pathogens that cause disease in covered specialty crops; 2) apply therapeutic measures to eliminate these pathogens in plant varieties; 3) establish plantings of clean plant 'starter' material and make this material available to nurseries and growers; 4) work with nurseries and growers in education/outreach programs to communicate the economic value to industry of using clean nursery stock; 5) advance quality management initiatives to strengthen confidence in program processes and products further, and 6) engage in the process of governing a network of collaborative clean plant centers. These activities result in clean plant centers providing sources of healthy source stock for fruit trees, grapes, citrus, berries, hops, sweet potatoes, and roses. This healthy planting stock is available to nurseries, growers, breeders, and others, ensuring that they have access to high-quality clean plant material necessary to sustain their industries, maintain productivity, and prevent losses due to plant diseases.

Average annual deliverables from clean plant centers include:

Fruit Trees – Maintain approximately 950 clean fruit tree accessions in foundations (collections of pathogen-tested plant materials) that have delivered up to 60,000 cuttings and 320,000 seeds on an annual basis.

Grapes – Maintain approximately 2,700 selections of clean grapevine accessions in foundations and distribute up to 60,000 clean grape-wood cuttings, buds, plants, or seed to industry per year.

Berries – Maintain 400 accessions in tissue culture and screenhouse foundations. Annual nursery sales of 800 million plants in California and 200 million in Florida are from plants originally sourced from NCPN centers.

Citrus – Maintain approximately 2,700 clean citrus tree accessions in foundations and deliver about 575,000 units of budwood and seed annually. Almost all commercial citrus nursery stock is derived from NCPN material.

Hops – Maintain 50 clean hop selections in foundations that are used to accommodate about 30 percent of the world's need for clean hops.

Sweet potato – Maintain about 440 sweet potato accessions and deliver up to 930,000 clean plant units, including seed, slips, plants, and tissue culture plants annually.

Roses – Maintain over 850 rose selections in foundations and associated collections and distribute over 80,000 clean scion and rootstock cuttings annually.

2. Animal Disease Prevention and Management Program (Farm Bill Section 12101)

The Animal Disease Prevention and Management Program (ADPMP) was authorized by Section 12101 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). It created the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB) and expanded on the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress provided $120 million to start the programs in fiscal years 2019 through 2022 and $30 million annually thereafter to continue the programs. In July 2025, Congress extended and expanded the mandatory funding for these programs as part of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*. Annual funding rose from $30 million per year in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to $233 million per year for fiscal years 2026 through 2030. The increase reflects a shift toward vaccine bank expansion and broader disease readiness investments. Funding for these provisions will decrease to $75 million a year starting in 2031, with $45 million reserved for NADPRP.

In 2025, APHIS obligated $29.6 million of Farm Bill funds for the three programs. For the NAVVCB, funding is primarily used to develop and maintain a national stockpile of sufficient quantities of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine. Through NADPRP, APHIS partners with States, Tribes, producer organizations, universities, and others to enhance local, regional, and national capabilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to animal health emergencies. The Farm Bill funds provided to the NAHLN are in addition to appropriated funds that support the NAHLN. These three programs are critical in supporting APHIS' efforts to protect the health and improve the quality, productivity, and economic viability of U.S. livestock, helping farmers and ranchers provide high-quality agricultural products to domestic and international consumers. The NAHLN Coordinating Council, the NADPRP Consultation Board, and other leaders in animal health and laboratory diagnostics provide recommendations for the types of projects that are necessary and are targeted to where they can make the most impact.

The NADPRP addresses the increasing risk of the introduction and domestic spread of animal pests and diseases affecting the economic interests of the U.S. livestock and related industries, including the maintenance and expansion of export markets. APHIS offers annual competitive funding opportunities and enters into cooperative agreements with States, universities, industry groups, and other entities to carry out high-value projects to improve animal disease emergency preparedness efforts. The Agency consults with stakeholders to identify annual funding priority topics, nominate proposal reviewers, and provide input on funding recommendations. This consultation is accomplished through the NADPRP Consultation Board and through interactions with APHIS and stakeholders at livestock sector meetings, and meetings with State animal health officials. The NADPRP Consultation Board is comprised of 16 animal health leaders who represent the program's eligible entities, including State animal health officials, livestock industry organizations, universities, and Tribal organizations. In 2025, APHIS awarded $15.3 million for 68 cooperative agreement projects led by 24 States, 5 Tribal entities, 35 land-grant universities, and three livestock producer organizations to enhance our nation's ability to rapidly respond to and control animal disease outbreaks. These projects help States and Tribes develop and practice plans to quickly control disease outbreaks, train responders to perform critical activities to control animal disease outbreaks, increase producers' use of biosecurity practices,

educate livestock owners on preventing disease, and support animal movement decisions in animal disease outbreaks, among others. Since 2019, APHIS has provided more than $70 million to support over 325 new animal disease prevention and preparedness projects.

The NAVVCB has significantly increased the U.S. stockpile of FMD vaccine, its top priority, and provides the flexibility to stockpile other countermeasures and diagnostics to serve as an insurance policy in case of an outbreak of a high-consequence foreign animal disease. APHIS awarded contracts to private companies to help supply the vaccine to the Bank. While the Agency is confident in its ability to exclude FMD from the country, vaccines are a vital part of the Agency's strategy to eradicate the disease and can be a critical tool to allow America's farmers and ranchers to recover quickly should the disease be introduced into the United States. Vaccine use will depend on the circumstances of the incursion and will require careful coordination with affected animal industries. Vaccination helps control infection spread by reducing the amount of virus shed by animals and controlling clinical signs of illness. While an outbreak would temporarily disrupt international markets, vaccination would allow animals to move through domestic production channels. APHIS will leverage the infrastructure of the National Veterinary Stockpile to distribute vaccine, should it be needed. In 2025, APHIS invested an additional $5.8 million in FMD vaccine antigen concentrate for three priority strains. In addition, the Agency invested$414,000 into diagnostic products for African Swine Fever and FMD.

The NAHLN is a nationally coordinated network and partnership of Federal, State, and university-associated animal health laboratories that provide animal health diagnostic testing to detect endemic and high-consequence pathogens in U.S. food animals. This effort is vital to protecting animal health, public health, and the U.S. food supply. The NAHLN laboratories serve as an early warning system for detecting animal diseases and pathogens, and they provide surge capacity during an outbreak and recovery response. Rapidly diagnosing and detecting the extent of an outbreak plays a key role in limiting the impact on producers. In 2025, APHIS awarded $6 million in non-competitive funding to all NAHLN laboratories for support with personnel.

3. Farm Bill – Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program, Section 2408

The Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) was authorized by Section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), also referred to as the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill provided mandatory funding for the FSCP from fiscal years 2019 through 2024 and was extended in 2025 with the passage of the Working Families Tax Cuts Act (WFTCA, P.L. 119-21) on July 4th. WFTCA, a comprehensive budget reconciliation package that included provisions to the Farm Bill, extended and expanded mandatory funding for the FSCP. WFTCA provided $105 million in mandatory funding for fiscal years 2025 through 2031 divided equally between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and APHIS. The objective of FSCP is to implement collaborative efforts to address the damage feral swine inflict on agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health. Feral swine are an invasive species that damage agricultural crops, degrade natural systems, and carry diseases that can be passed on to livestock and humans. Feral swine occur across the United States, but the heaviest concentrations are found in sections of the Southeastern region and stretch as far west as Texas and Oklahoma with high populations also found in California.

APHIS began initiating the delivery of the FSCP and prioritized States that have the highest and most damaging feral swine populations. APHIS has an existing program for controlling feral swine that has proved effective in addressing emerging populations in conjunction with States. The pilot program established by the Farm Bill was designed to build upon and expand work already being conducted by APHIS' National Feral Swine Damage Management Program to remove feral swine and reduce damage in areas with high population densities in partnership with local government, the private sector, industry, and academia.

In 2025, APHIS compiled the results of 34 Farm Bill-funded projects across 12 States (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas). The Agency collected data on the types and number of agriculture and property resources protected, as well as damage data to those resources collected over the time period of the projects to document the impacts of feral swine and the benefits of the FSCP control efforts. During the six years of the FSCP, 14 NRCS partners worked directly with an additional 59 agencies to carry

out the projects, and an additional 68 agencies providing in-kind support. APHIS protected 4 million acres through the FSCP, and project areas achieved approximately 75 percent reduction in crop and pasture damage by the end of the fifth year of the program.

ACCOUNT 2: BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows:

Building and Facilities

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2268a, [$500,000]$1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT-

Table APHIS-13. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	$500,000
Change in Appropriation	+500,000
Budget Estimate, 2027	1,000,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table APHIS-14. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriation:							
Buildings and Facilities	$1,000	$1,000	$500	$1,000	+$500	-	(1)
Total Appropriation	1,000	1,000	500	1,000	+500	-	
Recoveries, Other	236	167	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	28,199	27,242	26,812	21,312	-5,500	-	
Total Available	29,435	28,409	27,312	22,312	-5,000	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-27,242	-26,812	-21,312	-16,312	+5,000	-	
Total Obligations	2,193	1,597	6,000	6,000	-	-	

Table APHIS-15. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:					
Buildings and Facilities	$2,193	$1,597	$964	$1,000	+$36
Facility Funds	-	-	5,036	5,000	-36
Total Obligations	2,193	1,597	6,000	6,000	-
Balances Available, EOY:					
Discretionary					
Buildings and Facilities	610	464	-	-	-
Facility Funds	26,632	26,348	21,312	16,312	-5,000
Total Bal. Available, EOY	27,242	26,812	21,312	16,312	-5,000
Total Available	29,435	28,409	27,312	22,312	-5,000
Less:					
Recoveries, Other	-236	-1,676	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-28,199	-27,242	-26,812	-21,312	+5,500
Total Appropriation	1,000	1,000	500	1,000	+500

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

(1) Buildings and Facilities Program: An increase of $500,000 ($500,000 available in 2026).

The Buildings and Facilities (B&F) program addresses facility needs in support of the Agency's mission to protect the health and value of agriculture and natural resources nationwide. The program systematically addresses the Agency's needs for maintaining and repairing existing facilities, as well as constructing new facilities. APHIS' Facility Condition Index (FCI) drives the projects; the FCI is the sum of the costs of needed repairs divided by the replacement value of the

facility. APHIS strives to maintain an FCI for facilities assessed of less than 0.10, meaning that the cost to make repairs is less than 10 percent of the estimated replacement value for the facility.

Approximately 99 percent of B&F funding supports indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contracts (e.g., architect and engineering support), and construction contracts. These contracts, which provide indefinite supplies or services during a fixed period, help streamline the contract process and expedite service delivery. The remaining funds support operating costs.

The B&F program allows APHIS to centrally coordinate and prioritize these types of projects. Without necessary maintenance and repairs to facilities there could be program delays, environmental impacts, and noncompliance with State and local laws and codes. Many of APHIS' facilities have specialized functions that support various Federal, State, and local government programs, stakeholders, and customers. B&F projects ensure that APHIS' programs can be conducted at safe, secure, sustainable, and high-performing facilities.

A) An increase of $500,000 and 0 FTE.

APHIS requests an increase of $500,000 to restore funding back to 2025 levels and manage ongoing facility needs. Rising costs in construction materials and labor have placed additional pressure on existing resources. Without this increase, APHIS risks delays in scheduled improvements and reduced capacity to sustain facilities that support APHIS programs and protect employee health and safety.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table APHIS-16. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
California	-	-	$2,000	$2,000
Colorado	$548	-	-	-
Hawaii	13	$500	200	200
Idaho	-	200	-	-
Iowa	121	29	-	-
Mississippi	-	51	-	-
Montana	373	59	-	-
New York	124	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	1	-	-
Oklahoma	-	268	-	-
Texas	750	209	3,300	3,300
Virginia	37	-	-	-
Washington	-	78	-	-
NORTH AMERICA:				
Canada	227	-	-	-
Obligations	2,193	1,597	6,000	6,000
Bal. Available, EOY	27,242	26,812	21,312	16,312
Total, Available	29,435	28,409	27,312	22,312

OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Table APHIS-17. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
	Other Objects:				
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	$2,099	$1,597	$6,000	$6,000
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	35	-	-	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	53	-	-	-
26.0	Supplies and materials	6	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	2,193	1,597	6,000	6,000
99.9	Total, new obligations	2,193	1,597	6,000	6,000

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Buildings and Facilities (B&F) appropriation funds major, nonrecurring construction projects in support of program activities, and recurring construction, alterations, and repairs of existing facilities. These projects and activities allow other programs and employees to focus on APHIS' mission of protecting the health and value of agriculture and natural resources nationwide. The goal of the B&F program is to systematically address the Agency's needs for maintaining and repairing existing facilities as well as constructing new facilities. This program serves a vital role in maintaining APHIS' facilities so that employees can carry out their responsibilities safely and efficiently. Maintaining the condition and functionality of these facilities is an ongoing process that demands significant management of capital resources. Many of APHIS' facilities have specialized functions that support various Federal, State, and local government programs, as well as stakeholders and customers. B&F projects ensure that APHIS' programs are conducted at safe, sustainable, and high-performance facilities that support the Agency's mission.

APHIS' B&F program maximizes its efficiency through comprehensive construction projects. The Agency spends approximately 99 percent of B&F funding on construction contracts and contractual agreements of services for a specified length of time. More specifically, these contracts provide an indefinite quantity of supplies or services during a fixed time-period, help streamline the contract process and expedite service delivery. Remaining B&F funds support information technology projects (i.e., Facilities Capital Planning and Management software).

Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA): APHIS assigns each facility with a Facility Condition Index (FCI). The FCI is the sum of repair costs divided by the replacement value of the facility. APHIS uses the FCI scores to determine each year's priority projects. APHIS strives to maintain an FCI for facilities assessed of less than 0.10, meaning that the cost to make repairs is less than 10 percent of the estimated replacement value for the facilities.

Since 2000, APHIS has used a comprehensive FCA program to better understand the condition of facilities, strategically maintain them by identifying deficiencies and funding needs, stabilize the facilities repair backlog, predict maintenance needs, and implement financial management and capital asset improvement efforts. To implement the FCA program, APHIS contracted a consulting firm to assess the relative condition of assets and facilitating comparisons both within and among APHIS' facilities. The consulting firm calculated an FCI for each facility by program and Agency. In 2025, APHIS completed 13 FCAs and awarded 6 contractual FCA requests.

Summary of Current Projects: Each year, the B&F program schedules facility improvements, and conducts security, construction, and maintenance activities. Contractors perform inspections and tests to substantiate that the supplies or services conform to contract requirements. In addition, each year APHIS contracts a third-party design firm to validate the work to ensure it aligns with previously approved plans and specifications. APHIS typically identifies on-site certified personnel to perform the Contracting Officer's Representative services. The Agency's engineering staff attends construction progress meetings and APHIS collects performance data through contractor reports and on-site verification.

As of October 2025, APHIS' B&F funding supported 11 active projects. In 2025, APHIS designed/constructed tasks associated with projects at a cost of approximately $1.30 million and completed 14 construction projects. Approximately 60 percent of these projects were major renovations. Construction progress and final inspection reports are performed to ensure construction modifications are in accordance with the design plans and in compliance with Federally operated facility requirements.

Some of the ongoing projects requiring major or minor renovations include replacing the HVAC system (Building 6414) and the Combined Underground Utility Upgrades at Moore Air Base (MAB), Mission, TX, as well as HVAC upgrades at the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) Field Station, Hilo, Hawaii. upgrading the electrical service at the National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) Building in Ames, IA. Progress on these projects in 2025 are summarized below:

Moore Air Base, Building 6414 HVAC System: This project includes replacing existing chilled water piping and air handling units that have reached their life expectancy for optimal usage. The construction contract was awarded in 2021, construction began in 2022 and continued through 2024. The project has reached a state of substantial completion and is now available for use.

Moore Air Base, Combined Underground Utility Upgrades: This project addresses repairs needed for an 80+ years old infrastructure to ensure current and future agency mission operations can continue. The scope of this project includes the installation of a new sanitary sewer system, electrical upgrades, and changes to an antiquated communication infrastructure at MAB in Mission, TX. A construction contract was awarded for this project in 2022. In 2023, the construction contract was modified to include the installation of Raw water and Stormwater lines. Construction efforts began in 2023 and continued through 2025

National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) Field Station – HVAC Upgrades, Hilo, HI: The project will replace the HVAC system in the animal rooms at the NWRC Field Station located in Hilo, Hawaii. This effort aims to enhance the environmental conditions for animal care and research, aligning with APHIS's mission to protect animal health and welfare. The construction contract was awarded in 2025 and should be completed by the end of 2026.