2008 Explanatory Notes
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Purpose Statement

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

Together with our customers and stakeholders, APHIS promotes the health of animal and plant resources to facilitate their movement in the global marketplace and to ensure abundant agricultural products and services for U.S. customers. APHIS strives to assure its customers and stakeholders that it is on guard 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 also monitors and responds to potential acts of agricultural bio-terrorism, invasive species, diseases of wildlife and livestock, and conflicts between humans and wildlife. The Agency also manages and resolves sanitary and phytosanitary trade barriers and addresses certain issues relating to the humane treatment of animals. Finally, APHIS ensures that biotechnology-derived agricultural products are safe for release in the environment.

Our mission is carried out under five major areas of activity, as follows:

Pest and Disease Exclusion - The pest and disease exclusion programs prevent the introduction of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases. APHIS monitors plant and animal health throughout the world and uses the information to set effective agricultural import policies. APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security cooperate to ensure that these policies are enforced 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. APHIS engages in cooperative programs to control pests of imminent concern to the United States and to strengthen foreign plant protection and quarantine organizations. APHIS also certifies plants and plant products for export to the United States and regulates imports and exports of designated endangered plant species. APHIS assists U.S. exporters and the Foreign Agricultural Service in revising foreign plant and animal import regulations to encourage and increase U.S. agricultural exports.

The statutory authority supporting this program area is contained in 7 U.S.C. 166, 450, 1531-1542, 1581-1610, 7701-7772 and 8301 et. seq. (Animal Health Protection Act of 2002); 18 U.S.C. 42; 19 U.S.C. 1306; and 21 U.S.C. 102-105, 111-120, 121-123, 127, 131, 135- 135b, 136, 136a-f, 612-614, 618, and 620; 45 U.S.C. 71-74, and 46 U.S.C. 3901-3902. The principal legislative authorities for these activities include the Plant Protection Act of 2000, Sections 12-14 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2002, P.L. 107-188 Section 211-231. The Department's enforcement responsibilities for endangered plants are contained in the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Plant and Animal Health Monitoring - The plant and animal health monitoring programs are largely cooperative efforts involving the Federal and State governments, and industry. APHIS conducts programs to prevent communicable plant and animal diseases of foreign origin from entering the United States. Upon entrance into this country, the pests and diseases are rapidly

diagnosed. The Agency also carries out surveys in cooperation with the States to detect harmful plant and animal pests and diseases. The programs also help determine if there is a need to establish new pest or disease eradication programs.

The statutory authority for this work is contained in 7 U.S.C. 391, 450, 1622 and 8301 et. seq. (Animal Health Protection Act of 2002); and 21 U.S.C. 111-112, 114, 114b-114c, 114d-1, 117, 127, 134e, 608, 610, and 620. Principal legislative authority for these activities is contained in the Act of May 29, 1884; Act of August 30, 1890; Act of February 2, 1903; Act of March 3, 1905; Act of June 17, 1930; Act of September 21, 1944; Act of February 28, 1947; Act of September 6, 1961; Act of July 2, 1962; and Public Law 97-46 of September 25, 1981; Act of October 14, 1982; Act of January 13, 1983; Public Law 99-198 of December 23, 1985; Public Health Security and Bio-terrorism Response Act of 2002, Public Law 107-188 Section 211-231. APHIS will continue avian influenza monitoring and surveillance activities that were initiated with FY 2006 supplemental funding to prevent the possible mutations and reassortments of the low pathogenic virus to its highly pathogenic form; reduce the likelihood of the virus becoming a zoonotic agent, thereby protecting human health; and preserve international trade in poultry and poultry products.

Pest and Disease Management--In cooperation with the States, APHIS conducts programs to detect, prevent, and eradicate pests and diseases that are harmful to agriculture. The Agency monitors and regulates interstate shipments of plants, livestock, and related materials to prevent the spread of disease and the distribution of impure, unsafe, and nonefficacious materials and products. Through the Wildlife Services program, APHIS protects agriculture from detrimental animal predators through identification, demonstration, and application of the most appropriate methods of control.

The statutory authority for this work is contained in 7 U.S.C. 281-286, 429, 426-426-b, 450-450f, 851-855, 1624, 3801-3813, 7701-7772 and 8301 et. seq. (Animal Health Protection Act of 2002); and 21 U.S.C. 115-130, and 134-134h. Principal legislative authority for these activities is contained in the Animal Industry Act of May 29, 1884; Act of August 30, 1890; Act of February 2, 1903; Act of 1903; Act of March 3, 1905; Tariff Act of June 17, 1930; Act of 1931; Act of September 21, 1944; Plant Protection Act of 2000; Act of February 28, 1947; Act of September 6, 1961; Act of July 2, 1962; P.L. 92-629 of January 3, 1975; the Swine Health Protection Act of October 17, 1980; Public Law 97-46 of September 25, 1981; Act of October 14, 1982; Act of January 13, 1983; Public Law 99-198 of December 23, 1985; ; and the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2002, Public Law 107-188 Section 211-231and the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (Farm Bill) of 1990.

Animal Care--The Agency conducts regulatory activities to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals and horses as required by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) 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, exhibition, and sale as pets, and monitoring of certain horse shows. The Agency is preparing to seek public comment prior to implementing regulations to extend coverage under the AWA to rats, mice, and birds not involved in research.

Scientific and Technical Services--APHIS develops methods to control animals and pests that are detrimental to agriculture, wildlife, and public safety. The Agency's regulatory structure brings the benefits of genetic research to the marketplace, while protecting against the release of potentially harmful organisms into the environment. APHIS also 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 in coordination with other groups in APHIS to support plant protection programs of the Agency and its cooperators at the State, national, and international levels.

The statutory authority supporting this work is contained in 7 U.S.C. 426, 427, 427i, 430, 7701-7772 and 8301 et. seq. (Animal Health Protection Act of 2002); and 21 U.S.C. 151-159. The principal legislative authority for these activities is contained in the Act of May 29, 1884; Act of August 30, 1890; Act of February 2, 1903; Act of March 3, 1905; Tariff Act of June 17, 1930; Act of 1931; Act of September 21, 1944; the Plant Protection Act of 2000; Act of February 28, 1947; Act of September 6, 1961; Act of July 2, 1962; the Virus- Serum-Toxin Act of March 14, 1913; and the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2002, Public Law 107-188 Section 211-231. Authority to collect user fees for veterinary diagnostics is contained in Section 2509 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (Farm Bill) of 1990.

There were 5,513 permanent full-time employees and 2,286 other than permanent full-time employees as of September 30, 2006. Of the total, 1,162 full-time employees were located at headquarters. APHIS manages on a national basis through 2 regional offices and 430 field offices, including area offices, work stations, technical centers, and animal import centers. APHIS consolidated its current regional offices into 2 regional hubs. The eastern hub in Raleigh, North Carolina, began operation in August 1999, and the western hub in Fort Collins, Colorado, opened in August 2002. APHIS conducts much of its work in cooperation with State and local agencies, private groups, and foreign governments. APHIS performs work in the 50 States, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa.

OIG Audits Closed

#33002-03-SF	APHIS Animal Care Program Inspection and Enforcement Activities, closed 10/20/05
#33099-11-HY	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Oversight of Avian Influenza, closed 6/20/06
#33601-3-AT	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Evaluation of the Implementation of the Select Agent or Toxin Regulations Phase II, closed 2/9/06
#50601-0009-CH	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Control Over the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, closed 9/29/06
#50601-10-KC	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Surveillance Program – Phase II and Food Safety and Inspection Service Controls Over BSE Sampling, Specified Risk Materials, and Advanced meat Recovery Products - Phase III, closed 2/2/06
#50601-8-TE	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Controls Over Issuance of Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permits, closed 12/22/05

OIG Audits in Progress

#33601-0009-CH	Controls Over permits to Import Agricultural Products

#33701-0001-HY Implementation of the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza

#50601-0012-CH USDA Controls Over the Importation and Movement of Live Animals

#50601-0013-AT Department of Agriculture's Progress in Enhancing Agriculture Biosecurity Through Diagnostic and Reporting Networks

#50701-0002-KC USDA Homeland Security Initiatives and Directives

Single Audit Report: Commonwealth of Northern Marianas

GAO Audits

120507 Planning for Emergency Procurements

197012 Managerial Cost Accounting Practices at Large Federal Agencies

250276 Financial literacy and Education Commission

320396 Pandemic Influenza

320406 Review of Department of State/Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Aviation Programs

360653 Impact of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2002 on Food Inspections at Border Crossings

360677 Small Business Innovation Research Reauthorization

360700 USDA Plans to Prepare for an Avian Influenza Pandemic

360715 Direct Services to Small Manufacturers

360716 Implementation of the national Animal Identification System

440485 Federal Law Enforcement Authority and Training

440524 Review of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) One Face at the Border Initiative on Border Security and Inspection Workforce

450450 Assessment of the National Strategy, Framework, and Implementation Plan for Pandemic Influenza

450483 Retrospective Regulatory Review

460579 Issues Associated with the Expansion of BioSafety 3 and 4 Laboratories

543177 Federal Leasing Trends and Challenges

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Available Funds and Staff Years
2006 Actual and Estimated 2007 and 2008

Item	Actual 2006		Estimated 2007		Estimated 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Funding for Salaries and Expenses:						
Appropriation	$ 815,461,000	4,562	$ 825,198,000	4,695	$ 945,550,000	5,031
Rescission	(8,154,610)	--	-	--	-	--
Transfers from Commodity Credit Corporation	60,083,750	110	-	--	-	--
Avian Influenza Supplemental	71,500,000	150	-	--	-	--
Unobligated Balances carried forward start of year	254,965,076	--	304,675,321	--	304,294,938	--
Recovery from prior years	49,203,825	--	-	--	-	--
Authority from Offsetting collections	480,670,824	--	189,000,000	--	89,000,000	--
Subtotal, Discretionary funding	1,723,729,865	4,822	1,318,873,321	4,695	1,338,844,938	5,031
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fees:						
Total Collections	417,937,000	997	454,638,974	997	494,108,000	997
Less: Transfer to DHS	(240,544,000)	-	(272,607,080)	-	(299,622,000)	-
AQI User Fees (APHIS)	177,393,000	997	182,031,894	997	194,486,000	997
Total, Salaries and Expense Available Funding	1,901,122,865	5,819	1,500,905,215	5,692	1,533,330,938	6,028
Obligations against Salaries and Expenses:						
Current Year Appropriation	754,715,452	4,562	825,198,000	4,695	945,550,000	5,031
Obligations against prior year appropriation	34,895,924	392	71,903,584	560	82,606,383	175
Obligations against Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fees	183,109,619	997	-	-	-	-
Citrus Canker/Section 32	376,730,515	-	100,000,000	-	-	-
Obligations against Avian Influenza Supplemental:						
Obligations against Avian Influenza Supplemental	42,972,451	105	28,527,549	45	-	-
Emergency Transfers (CCC):						
Bovine Tuberculosis	588,663	-	-	-	-	-
BSE	28,252,626	100	-	-	-	-
Emerald Ash Borer	3,277,067	-	-	-	-	-
Medfly (FL, CA)	4,315,925	10	-	-	-	-
Potato Cyst Nematode	2,659,830	-	-	-		
Rabies	2,249,830	-	-	-	-	-
Recovery of Prior Year Funds	2,112,802	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Carryover (CCC):						
Asian Longhorned Beetle	3,329,099	8	2,062,532	8	-	-
Avian Influenza	2,156,631	4	8,545,480	20	-	-
Belgian Sheep	-	-	3,547	0	-	-
BSE	24,142,693	64	-	-	-	-
Bovine Tuberculosis	9,146,102	15	2,961,935	8	-	-
Citrus Canker	1,043,728	4	4,305,627	16	-	-
Emerald Ash Borer	7,667,209	13	6,073,943	18	-	-
Exotic Newcastle Disease	2,613,408	4	9,771,274	23	-	-
Glassy Winged Sharpshooter	76,000	1	-	-	-	-
Infectious Salmon Anemia	892,142	2	149,955	1	-	-
Karnal Bunt	292,488	2	207,343	1	-	-
Medfly (Guatemala)	2,432,681	4	1,088,233	4		-
Medfly (Tijuana)	50,000	1	150,000	1	-	-
Medfly (FL, CA)	-	-	740,718	3	-	-
Mormon Cricket	554,856	2	817,488	3	-	-
National Animal ID System	619,653	2	632,654	2		-
Plum Pox Virus	702,432	2	-	-	-	-
Potato Cyst Nematode	-	-	10,218,727	27	-	-
Pseudorabies	2,736,688	6	1,229,394	4	-	-
Rabies	59,334	2	620,170	2	-	-
Scrapie	392,480	2	-	-	-	-
Spring Viremia of Carp	1,226,430	3	2,897,829	11	-	-
Sudden Oak Death	4,748,038	9	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Emergency Obligations	108,338,835	260	52,476,849	150	-	-
Subtotal, Direct Salaries and Expenses	1,500,762,796	6,316	1,107,229,894	6,447	1,140,036,000	6,203

Item	Actual 2006		Estimated 2007		Estimated 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Obligations under other USDA appropriations:						
Agricultural Marketing Service: for administrative and technical support	5,716,384	-	5,483,739	-	5,648,251	-
Agricultural Research Service: for administrative and technical support	1,457,664	-	1,372,840	-	1,427,754	-
Coop State Research, Education & Extension Service : for administrative and technical support	144,500	-	136,091	-	141,535	-
Foreign Agricultural Service: for administrative and technical support	442,824	-	417,055	-	433,738	-
Forest Service: for administrative and technical support	829,462	-	781,194	-	812,442	-
Grain Inspection Service: for administrative and technical support	1,000,000	-	941,809	-	979,481	-
Natural Resource Conservation Service for administrative and technical support	771	-	726	-	755	-
Total, Agriculture Appropriations	9,591,605	-	9,133,455	-	9,443,956	-
Other Federal Funds:						
DOD: for Information Technology and other services and support	2,837,457	-	2,672,341	-	2,779,235	-
DOD, U.S. Air Force: for realty	2,384,898	-	2,246,117	-	2,335,962	-
DOD, U.S. Army for: wildlife services control	330,031	-	310,826	-	323,259	-
DOD, U.S. Navy	1,109,363	-	1,044,808	-	1,086,600	-
DOD, U.S. Marine Corps	250,568	-	235,987	-	245,427	-
DOD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: for biocontrol (other than NBCI)	558,996	-	526,467	-	547,526	-
DHS: for AQI and other services and support	381,280	-	359,093	-	373,456	-
USDI, Geological Survey, National Park Service Office of Insular Affairs	1,051,744	-	990,541	-	1,030,163	-
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Services: for natural resources and endangered species	1,338,222	-	1,260,349	-	1,260,763	-
USDOT, Federal Aviation Administration	376,582	-	354,168	-	368,335	-
Other Federal Funds	3,973,666	323	3,740,432	323	3,840,050	323
Total, Other Federal Funds	14,592,807	323	13,741,130	323	14,190,775	323
Reimbursements:						
Funds from States and local entities for wildlife services support	26,563,711	250	25,017,929	250	24,768,467	250
Import-Export User Fees	25,387,319	160	23,909,993	160	23,327,293	160
NVSL Testing Fees	956,253	-	900,608	-	927,626	-
Phytosanitary Certificate User Fees	4,842,516	85	4,560,223	85	4,597,030	85
Reimburseable Overtime	6,251,721	-	5,887,924	-	6,064,562	-
Product Certificates	737,327		694,121	-	714,945	-
Veterinary Accreditation	339,833		320,058		329,659	
Veterinary Diagnostics User Fees	3,423,690	-	3,224,460	-	3,121,194	-
Other User Fees	1,932,415		1,819,965	-	1,774,564	-
Other Reimbursements, Annual and No Year, Federal and Non-Federal	87,232	15	82,156	15	83,799	15
Subtotal, Reimburseable Salaries and Expenses	94,706,429	833	89,292,021	833	89,343,869	833
Total, Salaries and Expense Obligations	1,595,469,226	7,149	1,196,521,915	7,280	1,229,379,869	7,036
Buildings and Facilities:						
Current Year Appropriation	4,996,000	-	5,946,000	-	8,931,000	-
Rescission	(49,960)	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balances carried forward, start of year	10,349,234	-	7,353,377	-	3,379,377	-
Recovery from prior years	2,081,062					
Total, Buildings and Facilities Available Appropriations	17,376,336	-	13,299,377	-	12,310,377	-
Obligations	10,022,959	-	9,920,000	-	6,932,000	-
Unobligated Balances carried forward end of year	7,353,377	-	3,379,377	-	5,378,377	-

Item	Actual 2006		Estimated 2007		Estimated 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Trust Funds:						
Misc. Contributed Funds	15,801,515	150	14,000,000	150	14,000,000	150
Unobligated Balances carried forward, start of year	12,158,635	-	12,529,026	-	12,529,026	-
Recovery from prior years	250,427					
Total, Trust Funds Available	28,210,577	150	26,529,026	150	26,529,026	150
Obligations	15,681,551	150	14,000,000	150	14,000,000	150
Unobligated Balances carried forward end of year	12,529,026		12,529,026		12,529,026	
Total Obligations, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	$ 1,621,173,735	7,299	$ 1,220,441,915	7,430	$ 1,250,311,869	7,186

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year Summary
2006 Actual and Estimated 2007 and 2008

Grade	2006			2007			2008		
	Headquarters	Field	Total	Headquarters	Field	Total	Headquarters	Field	Total
Senior Executive Service	20	11	31	21	12	33	21	12	33
GS-15	58	47	105	60	50	110	62	52	114
GS-14	255	237	492	242	225	467	246	212	458
GS-13	233	432	665	236	408	644	247	418	665
GS-12	162	808	970	188	755	943	194	771	965
GS-11	81	894	975	76	872	948	90	886	976
GS-10	2	10	12	2	12	14	9	23	32
GS-09	95	442	537	92	465	557	115	523	638
GS-08	17	282	299	20	277	297	23	315	338
GS-07	90	525	615	118	525	643	136	539	675
GS-06	24	295	319	29	322	351	44	328	372
GS-05	22	290	312	17	341	358	24	344	368
GS-04	12	155	167	11	175	186	25	177	202
GS-03	0	8	8	6	13	19	7	20	27
GS-02	4	2	6	1	4	5	1	5	6
Other Graded Positions	12	140	152	28	193	221	44	219	263
Ungraded Positions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Permanent Positions	1,087	4,578	5,665	1,147	4,649	5,796	1,288	4,844	6,132
Unfilled Positions EOY	-87	113	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Perm. Employment EOY	1,174	4,465	5,639	1,147	4,649	5,796	1,288	4,844	6,132
Staff Year Estimate	1,420	5,879	7,299	1,634	5,796	7,430	1,054	6,132	7,186

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SIZE, COMPOSITION AND COST OF MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

The FY 2008 Budget Estimate proposes the disposal and replacement of 273 passenger motor vehicles.

APHIS' veterinarians, animal health technicians, inspectors, plant protection and quarantine officers, wildlife biologists and other technical personnel rely upon the motor vehicles to assist in their daily job activities, which entails travel between inspection sites, farms, ranches, ports, nurseries and other commercial firms. The use of Government-owned vehicles has shown to be more cost effective than having personnel use privately-owned vehicles.

To maintain the life span of the vehicle, operators are required to keep historical maintenance records and to submit the vehicle's operational data. Periodic maintenance surveys and consolidation of the vehicle fleet ensure the full use of each vehicle in the fleet.

Replacement criteria: Normally, passenger vehicles are not replaced unless they either have mileage of 60,000 or more, or are three years or more in age. There continues to be an effort to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

Changes to the motor vehicle fleet. There is a planned increase of 4 sedans/station wagons, 4 vans, 14 sport utility vehicles (SUVs), 12 4x2 light trucks, 41 4x4 light trucks, and 1 medium duty truck. There is no planned change in the number of buses. The total planned increase in the APHIS motor vehicle fleet is 76.

Replacement of passenger motor vehicles. The Agency proposes replacing 273 of the 4,082 passenger vehicles currently in the Agency fleet. The vehicles proposed for replacement will be utilized in the field by APHIS' technical personnel. Vehicles designated for disposal meet the General Service Administration's standards by having mileage of 60,000 or more, or by being more than three years of age. There are no impediments in managing the fleet.

The size, composition, and cost of Agency motor vehicle fleet as of September 30, 2006 are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Light Duty Vehicles					Medium Duty Vehicles		Total	Annual
	Sedans & Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks		Buses	Trucks	Vehicles	Operating Costs
				4x2	4x4				
FY 2005	500	230	310	1,174	1,866	1	1	4,082	$5,918,137
Change from 2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	987,390
FY 2006	500	230	310	1,174	1,866	1	1	4,082	6,905,527
Change from 2006	14	8	20	12	50	0	11	115	747,532
FY 2007	514	238	330	1,186	1,916	1	12	4,197	7,653,059
Change from 2007	4	4	14	12	41	0	1	76	688,887
FY 2008	518	242	344	1,198	1,957	1	13	4,273	8,341,946

Tthe APHIS aircraft fleet consists of seven aircraft for domestic plant pest and disease management programs (PPQ); three for the international plant and animal pest exclusion programs (IS), one of which is inoperable and used for spare parts; and 34 for the Wildlife Services (WS) management programs. Of the 34 WS aircraft: 20 are owned, 2 of which are inoperable; 5 aircraft are borrowed; and 9 aircraft are rented.

APHIS aircraft are used for aerial resource and surveillance surveys, aerial application tests, methods development and testing, and equipment demonstration and testing; to control and/or eradicate destructive plant pests from attacking agricultural crops; and, to alleviate or control wildlife damage to agricultural products. Some also serve the purpose of monitoring contract aircraft.

Aircraft purchases are made primarily to replace aging or inoperable aircraft. Aircraft replacement authority is mentioned in the Appropriations Act; however, the Agency only replaces when necessary to maintain fleet safety and efficient operating conditions. There are currently no plans to change the aircraft fleet.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Proposed Language Changes

The estimates include proposed changes in the language of this item as follows (new language is underscored):

Salaries and Expenses:

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary to prevent, control and eradicate pests and plant and animal diseases; to carry out inspection, quarantine, and regulatory activities; and to protect the environment, as authorized by law, $945,550,000, of which $4,163,000 shall be available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions; of which $16,098,000 shall be used for the Cotton Pests program for cost share purposes or for debt retirement for active eradication zones; of which $33,125,000 shall be available for a National Animal Identification program; of which $57,044,000 shall be used to conduct a surveillance and preparedness program for highly pathogenic avian influenza: 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 operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed four, of which two shall be for replacement only: Provided further, That, in addition, for sudden, urgent, and unforeseen circumstances which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of this country, 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, 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 2008, 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 credited to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

CURRENT LAW

Estimate, 2007	825,198,000
Budget Estimate, 2008	945,550,000
Increase in appropriation	+120,352,000

SUMMARY OF INCREASES AND DECREASES
(On basis of appropriation)

Item of Change	2007 Estimate	Pay Costs	Program Changes		2008 Estimated
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appr.)	$27,249,000	$726,000	-$1,427,000	2a	$26,548,000
Cattle Ticks	7,551,000	263,000	1,860,000	2b	9,674,000
FAD/FMD	8,656,000	142,000	4,508,000	2c	13,306,000
Fruit Fly Exclusion & Detection	59,377,000	893,000	14,464,000	2d	74,734,000
Import/Export	12,368,000	352,000	-949,000	2e	11,771,000
Screwworm	27,720,000	86,000	2,915,000	2f	30,721,000
Trade Issues Resolution & Management	12,457,000	175,000	2,209,000	2g	14,841,000
Tropical Bont Tick	422,000	5,000	4,000	a/	431,000
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Exclusion	$155,800,000	$2,642,000	$23,584,000		$182,026,000
Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance	135,661,000	2,167,000	16,994,000	3a	154,822,000
Animal & Plant Health Reg. Enforcement	10,295,000	290,000	2,143,000	3b	12,728,000
Biosurveillance	1,987,000	10,000	544,000	3c	2,541,000
Emergency Management Systems	13,549,000	211,000	7,851,000	3d	21,611,000
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	37,205,000	314,000	19,525,000	3e	57,044,000
Pest Detection	27,043,000	496,000	13,673,000	3f	41,212,000
Select Agents	3,484,000	43,000	3,139,000	3g	6,666,000
Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance	0	0	1,950,000	3h	1,950,000
Subtotal, Plant and Animal Health Monitoring	$229,224,000	$3,531,000	$65,819,000		$298,574,000
Aquaculture	1,249,000	14,000	11,000	a/	1,274,000
Biological Control	9,483,000	252,000	200,000	a/	9,935,000
Boll Weevil	38,610,000	0	-38,610,000	4a	0
Brucellosis	10,348,000	134,000	-1,390,000	4b	9,092,000
Chronic Wasting Disease	18,523,000	75,000	-6,278,000	4c	12,320,000
Contingency Funds	4,099,000	36,000	28,000	a/	4,163,000
Cotton Pests	0	89,000	16,009,000	4d	16,098,000
Emerging Plant Pests	93,214,000	615,000	30,174,000	4e	124,003,000
Golden Nematode	800,000	17,000	13,000	a/	830,000
Grasshopper	5,499,000	81,000	-1,075,000	4f	4,505,000
Gypsy Moth	4,770,000	84,000	66,000	a/	4,920,000
Imported Fire Ant	2,132,000	10,000	8,000	a/	2,150,000
Johne's Disease	13,057,000	60,000	-9,851,000	4g	3,266,000
Low Pathogen Avian Influenza	10,699,000	86,000	6,015,000	4h	16,800,000
Noxious Weeds	1,901,000	5,000	-760,000	4i	1,146,000

Item of Change	2007 Estimate	Pay Costs		Program Changes		2008 Estimated
Pink Bollworm	5,169,000	0		-5,169,000	4j	0
Plum Pox	2,194,000	11,000		1,009,000	4k	3,214,000
Pseudorabies	4,347,000	69,000		-1,945,000	4l	2,471,000
Scrapie	18,414,000	189,000		-1,283,000	4m	17,320,000
Tuberculosis	14,851,000	153,000		1,840,000	4n	16,844,000
Wildlife Services Operations	77,148,000	1,486,000		-1,684,000	4o	76,950,000
Witchweed	1,512,000	8,000		6,000	a/	1,526,000
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Management	$338,019,000	$3,474,000		-$12,666,000		$328,827,000
Animal Welfare	17,303,000	483,000		3,340,000	5a	21,126,000
Horse Protection	492,000	4,000		0	a/	496,000
Subtotal, Animal Care	$17,795,000	$487,000		$3,340,000		$21,622,000
Biosecurity	1,952,000	0		1,500,000	6a	3,452,000
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	10,468,000	218,000		3,455,000	6b	14,141,000
Environmental Compliance	2,626,000	48,000		38,000	a/	2,712,000
Plant Methods Development Labs	8,450,000	278,000		3,204,000	6c	11,932,000
Veterinary Biologics	15,491,000	498,000		3,878,000	6d	19,867,000
Veterinary Diagnostics	22,661,000	647,000		9,636,000	6e	32,944,000
Wildlife Services Methods Development	17,216,000	407,000		309,000	6f	17,932,000
Subtotal, Scientific and Technical Services	$78,864,000	$2,096,000		$22,020,000		$102,980,000
APHIS Information Tech. Infrastructure	4,506,000	0		523,000	7a	5,029,000
Physical/Operational Security	990,000	0		5,502,000	7b	6,492,000
Subtotal, Management	5,496,000	0		6,025,000		11,521,000
Total, Available Appropriations	825,198,000	12,230,000	1a	108,122,000		945,550,000

a/ Minimal increases requested to meet increasing basic operating costs.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Project Statement
(On basis of appropriation)

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate		Increase or	2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Pest and Disease Exclusion:							
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Approp).....	$27,192,879	303	$27,249,000	303	-$701,000	$26,548,000	303
Cattle Ticks.....	7,550,730	110	7,551,000	110	2,123,000	9,674,000	114
FAD/FMD.....	8,655,152	27	8,656,000	27	4,650,000	13,306,000	50
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection.....	54,340,155	373	59,377,000	373	15,357,000	74,734,000	377
Import/Export.....	12,368,070	147	12,368,000	147	-597,000	11,771,000	147
Screwworm.....	24,556,003	36	27,720,000	36	3,001,000	30,721,000	36
Trade Issues Resolution and Management.....	12,457,170	52	12,457,000	52	2,384,000	14,841,000	65
Tropical Bont Tick.....	421,740	2	422,000	2	9,000	431,000	2
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Exclusion.....	147,541,899	1,050	155,800,000	1,050	26,226,000	182,026,000	1,094
Plant and Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance:							
Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance.....	119,801,701	885	135,661,000	885	19,161,000	154,822,000	904
Animal & Plant Health Reg. Enforcement.....	9,959,654	109	10,295,000	109	2,433,000	12,728,000	127
Biosurveillance.....	1,751,889	4	1,987,000	4	554,000	2,541,000	4
Emergency Management Systems.....	10,736,626	80	13,549,000	80	8,062,000	21,611,000	91
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.....	0	0	37,205,000	131	19,839,000	57,044,000	131
Pest Detection.....	27,042,840	116	27,043,000	116	14,169,000	41,212,000	182
Select Agents.....	3,483,810	18	3,484,000	18	3,182,000	6,666,000	24
Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance....	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	1,950,000	11
Subtotal, Plant & Animal Health Mon. & Surv...	172,776,521	1,212	229,224,000	1,343	69,350,000	298,574,000	1,474
Pest and Disease Management:							
Aquaculture.....	1,249,380	6	1,249,000	6	25,000	1,274,000	6
Biological Control.....	9,352,336	105	9,483,000	105	452,000	9,935,000	105
Boll Weevil.....	38,609,735	10	38,610,000	10	-38,610,000	0	0
Brucellosis.....	10,348,470	56	10,348,000	56	-1,256,000	9,092,000	56
Chronic Wasting Disease.....	18,222,900	31	18,523,000	31	-6,203,000	12,320,000	31
Contingency Funds.....	3,423,362	15	4,099,000	15	64,000	4,163,000	15
Cotton Pests.....	0	0	0	0	16,098,000	16,098,000	37
Emerging Plant Pests.....	92,580,773	238	93,214,000	238	30,789,000	124,003,000	275
Golden Nematode.....	799,920	7	800,000	7	30,000	830,000	7
Grasshopper.....	5,499,244	34	5,499,000	34	-994,000	4,505,000	34
Gypsy Moth.....	4,769,820	35	4,770,000	35	150,000	4,920,000	35
Imported Fire Ant.....	2,132,460	4	2,132,000	4	18,000	2,150,000	4
Johne's Disease.....	13,057,110	25	13,057,000	25	-9,791,000	3,266,000	25
Low Pathogen Avian Influenza.....	9,625,092	24	10,699,000	24	6,101,000	16,800,000	36
Noxious Weeds.....	1,875,386	2	1,901,000	2	-755,000	1,146,000	2
Pink Bollworm.....	5,168,790	20	5,169,000	20	-5,169,000	0	0
Plum Pox.....	2,152,776	5	2,194,000	5	1,020,000	3,214,000	5
Pseudorabies.....	4,347,090	29	4,347,000	29	-1,876,000	2,471,000	29
Scrapie.....	16,429,000	79	18,414,000	79	-1,094,000	17,320,000	79
Tuberculosis.....	14,850,990	49	14,851,000	49	1,993,000	16,844,000	64
Wildlife Services Operations.....	76,824,825	530	77,148,000	530	-198,000	76,950,000	549
Witchweed.....	1,500,178	3	1,512,000	3	14,000	1,526,000	3
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Management.....	332,819,636	1,307	338,019,000	1,307	-9,192,000	328,827,000	1,397
Animal Care:							
Animal Welfare.....	17,303,220	183	17,303,000	183	3,823,000	21,126,000	204
Horse Protection.....	489,574	5	492,000	5	4,000	496,000	5
Subtotal, Animal Care.....	17,792,794	188	17,795,000	188	3,827,000	21,622,000	209

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate		Increase or	2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Scientifc and Technical Services:							
Biosecurity	1,810,502	0	1,952,000	0	1,500,000	3,452,000	0
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	10,395,863	70	10,468,000	70	3,673,000	14,141,000	83
Environmental Compliance	2,626,470	20	2,626,000	20	86,000	2,712,000	20
Plant Methods Development Labs	8,449,650	108	8,450,000	108	3,482,000	11,932,000	116
Veterinary Biologics	15,490,530	180	15,491,000	180	4,376,000	19,867,000	200
Veterinary Diagnostics	22,661,100	267	22,661,000	267	10,283,000	32,944,000	270
Wildlife Services Methods Development	17,092,112	162	17,216,000	162	716,000	17,932,000	168
Subtotal, Scientific and Technical Services	78,526,227	807	78,864,000	807	24,116,000	102,980,000	857
Management Initiatives:							
APHIS Info. Technology Infrastructure	4,277,406	0	4,506,000	0	523,000	5,029,000	0
Physical/Operational Security	980,969	0	990,000	0	5,502,000	6,492,000	0
Subtotal, Management Initiatives	5,258,375	0	5,496,000	0	6,025,000	11,521,000	0
					0		
Total Available	754,715,452	4,564	825,198,000	4,695	120,352,000	945,550,000	5,031
Unobligated Balances, end of year	52,590,938	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescission	8,154,610	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Avian Influenza Supplemental	42,972,451	105	28,527,549	45	0	0	0
Unobligated Balances, end of year	28,527,549	45	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Appropriations	$886,961,000	4,714	$853,725,549	4,740	$120,352,000	$945,550,000	5,031

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Project Statement
(On basis of available funds)

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate		Increase or	2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Pest and Disease Exclusion:							
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Approp)	$27,192,879	303	$27,249,000	303	-$701,000	$26,548,000	303
Cattle Ticks	7,550,730	110	7,551,000	110	2,123,000	9,674,000	114
FAD/FMD	8,655,152	27	8,656,000	27	4,650,000	13,306,000	50
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection	60,566,041	373	59,377,000	373	15,357,000	74,734,000	377
Import/Export	12,368,070	147	12,368,000	147	-597,000	11,771,000	147
Screwworm	27,448,003	36	27,720,000	36	3,001,000	30,721,000	36
Trade Issues Resolution and Management	12,457,170	52	12,457,000	52	2,384,000	14,841,000	65
Tropical Bont Tick	421,740	2	422,000	2	9,000	431,000	2
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Exclusion	156,659,785	1,050	155,800,000	1,050	26,226,000	182,026,000	1,094
Plant and Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance:							
Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance	127,668,768	885	135,661,000	885	19,161,000	154,822,000	904
Animal & Plant Health Reg. Enforcement	9,959,654	109	10,295,000	109	2,433,000	12,728,000	127
Biosurveillance	1,751,889	4	1,987,000	4	554,000	2,541,000	4
Emergency Management Systems	12,845,965	80	13,549,000	80	8,062,000	21,611,000	91
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	0	0	37,205,000	131	19,839,000	57,044,000	131
Pest Detection	27,042,840	116	27,043,000	116	14,169,000	41,212,000	182
Select Agents	3,483,810	18	3,484,000	18	3,182,000	6,666,000	24
Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	1,950,000	11
Subtotal, Plant & Animal Health Mon. & Surv	182,752,927	1,212	229,224,000	1,343	69,350,000	298,574,000	1,474
Pest and Disease Management:							
Aquaculture	1,249,380	6	1,249,000	6	25,000	1,274,000	6
Biological Control	9,352,336	105	9,483,000	105	452,000	9,935,000	105
Boll Weevil	39,727,863	10	38,610,000	10	-38,610,000	0	0
Brucellosis	10,348,470	56	10,348,000	56	-1,256,000	9,092,000	56
Chronic Wasting Disease	18,222,900	31	18,523,000	31	-6,203,000	12,320,000	31
Contingency Funds	4,561,332	15	4,099,000	15	64,000	4,163,000	15
Cotton Pests	0	0	0	0	16,098,000	16,098,000	37
Emerging Plant Pests	102,732,276	238	93,214,000	238	30,789,000	124,003,000	275
Golden Nematode	799,920	7	800,000	7	30,000	830,000	7
Grasshopper	5,499,244	34	5,499,000	34	-994,000	4,505,000	34
Gypsy Moth	4,769,820	35	4,770,000	35	150,000	4,920,000	35
Imported Fire Ant	2,132,460	4	2,132,000	4	18,000	2,150,000	4
Johne's Disease	13,057,110	25	13,057,000	25	-9,791,000	3,266,000	25
Low Pathogen Avian Influenza	12,541,453	24	10,699,000	24	6,101,000	16,800,000	36
Noxious Weeds	1,875,386	2	1,901,000	2	-755,000	1,146,000	2
Pink Bollworm	5,168,790	20	5,169,000	20	-5,169,000	0	0
Plum Pox	2,152,776	5	2,194,000	5	1,020,000	3,214,000	5
Pseudorabies	4,347,090	29	4,347,000	29	-1,876,000	2,471,000	29
Scrapie	16,429,000	79	18,414,000	79	-1,094,000	17,320,000	79
Tuberculosis	14,850,990	49	14,851,000	49	1,993,000	16,844,000	64
Wildlife Services Operations	77,278,813	530	77,148,000	530	-198,000	76,950,000	549
Witchweed	1,500,178	3	1,512,000	3	14,000	1,526,000	3
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Management	348,597,586	1,307	338,019,000	1,307	-9,192,000	328,827,000	1,397
Animal Care:							
Animal Welfare	17,303,220	183	17,303,000	183	3,823,000	21,126,000	204
Horse Protection	489,574	5	492,000	5	4,000	496,000	5
Subtotal, Animal Care	17,792,794	188	17,795,000	188	3,827,000	21,622,000	209

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate		Increase	2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	or Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Scientifc and Technical Services:							
Biosecurity	1,810,502	0	1,952,000	0	1,500,000	3,452,000	0
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	10,395,863	70	10,468,000	70	3,673,000	14,141,000	83
Environmental Compliance	2,626,470	20	2,626,000	20	86,000	2,712,000	20
Plant Methods Development Labs	8,449,650	108	8,450,000	108	3,482,000	11,932,000	116
Veterinary Biologics	15,490,530	180	15,491,000	180	4,376,000	19,867,000	200
Veterinary Diagnostics	22,661,100	267	22,661,000	267	10,283,000	32,944,000	270
Wildlife Services Methods Development	17,115,794	162	17,216,000	162	716,000	17,932,000	168
Subtotal, Scientific and Technical Services	78,549,909	807	78,864,000	807	24,116,000	102,980,000	857
Management Initiatives:							
APHIS Info. Technology Infrastructure	4,277,406	0	4,506,000	0	523,000	5,029,000	0
Physical/Operational Security	980,969	0	990,000	0	5,502,000	6,492,000	0
Subtotal, Management Initiatives	5,258,375	0	5,496,000	0	6,025,000	11,521,000	0
					0		
Total Available	789,611,376	4,564	825,198,000	4,695	120,352,000	945,550,000	5,031
Unobligated Balances, end of year	52,590,938	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescission	8,154,610	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Avian Influenza Supplemental	42,972,451	105	28,527,549	45	0	0	0
Unobligated Balances, end of year	28,527,549	45	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Available Appropriations	$921,856,923	4,714	$853,725,549	4,740	$120,352,000	$945,550,000	5,031

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Project Statement - Crosswalk for the Cotton Pests Program
(On basis of appropriation)

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate		Increase or	2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Pest and Disease Exclusion:							
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Approp).....	$27,192,879	303	$27,249,000	303	-$701,000	$26,548,000	303
Cattle Ticks.....	7,550,730	110	7,551,000	110	2,123,000	9,674,000	114
FAD/FMD.....	8,655,152	27	8,656,000	27	4,650,000	13,306,000	50
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection.....	54,340,155	373	59,377,000	373	15,357,000	74,734,000	377
Import/Export.....	12,368,070	147	12,368,000	147	-597,000	11,771,000	147
Screwworm.....	24,556,003	36	27,720,000	36	3,001,000	30,721,000	36
Trade Issues Resolution and Management.....	12,457,170	52	12,457,000	52	2,384,000	14,841,000	65
Tropical Bont Tick.....	421,740	2	422,000	2	9,000	431,000	2
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Exclusion.....	147,541,899	1,050	155,800,000	1,050	26,226,000	182,026,000	1,094
Plant and Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance:							
Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance.....	119,801,701	885	135,661,000	885	19,161,000	154,822,000	904
Animal & Plant Health Reg. Enforcement.....	9,959,654	109	10,295,000	109	2,433,000	12,728,000	127
Biosurveillance.....	1,751,889	4	1,987,000	4	554,000	2,541,000	4
Emergency Management Systems.....	10,736,626	80	13,549,000	80	8,062,000	21,611,000	91
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.....	0	0	37,205,000	131	19,839,000	57,044,000	131
Pest Detection.....	27,042,840	116	27,043,000	116	14,169,000	41,212,000	182
Select Agents.....	3,483,810	18	3,484,000	18	3,182,000	6,666,000	24
Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance....	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	1,950,000	11
Subtotal, Plant & Animal Health Mon. & Surv...	172,776,521	1,212	229,224,000	1,343	69,350,000	298,574,000	1,474
Pest and Disease Management:							
Aquaculture.....	1,249,380	6	1,249,000	6	25,000	1,274,000	6
Biological Control.....	9,352,336	105	9,483,000	105	452,000	9,935,000	105
Brucellosis.....	10,348,470	56	10,348,000	56	-1,256,000	9,092,000	56
Chronic Wasting Disease.....	18,222,900	31	18,523,000	31	-6,203,000	12,320,000	31
Contingency Funds.....	3,423,362	15	4,099,000	15	64,000	4,163,000	15
Cotton Pests.....	43,778,526	30	43,779,000	30	-27,681,000	16,098,000	37
Emerging Plant Pests.....	92,580,773	238	93,214,000	238	30,789,000	124,003,000	275
Golden Nematode.....	799,920	7	800,000	7	30,000	830,000	7
Grasshopper.....	5,499,244	34	5,499,000	34	-994,000	4,505,000	34
Gypsy Moth.....	4,769,820	35	4,770,000	35	150,000	4,920,000	35
Imported Fire Ant.....	2,132,460	4	2,132,000	4	18,000	2,150,000	4
Johne's Disease.....	13,057,110	25	13,057,000	25	-9,791,000	3,266,000	25
Low Pathogen Avian Influenza.....	9,625,092	24	10,699,000	24	6,101,000	16,800,000	36
Noxious Weeds.....	1,875,386	2	1,901,000	2	-755,000	1,146,000	2
Plum Pox.....	2,152,776	5	2,194,000	5	1,020,000	3,214,000	5
Pseudorabies.....	4,347,090	29	4,347,000	29	-1,876,000	2,471,000	29
Scrapie.....	16,429,000	79	18,414,000	79	-1,094,000	17,320,000	79
Tuberculosis.....	14,850,990	49	14,851,000	49	1,993,000	16,844,000	64
Wildlife Services Operations.....	76,824,825	530	77,148,000	530	-198,000	76,950,000	549
Witchweed.....	1,500,178	3	1,512,000	3	14,000	1,526,000	3
Subtotal, Pest and Disease Management.....	332,819,636	1,307	338,019,000	1,307	-9,192,000	328,827,000	1,397
Animal Care:							
Animal Welfare.....	17,303,220	183	17,303,000	183	3,823,000	21,126,000	204
Horse Protection.....	489,574	5	492,000	5	4,000	496,000	5
Subtotal, Animal Care.....	17,792,794	188	17,795,000	188	3,827,000	21,622,000	209

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate		Increase	2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	or Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Scientifc and Technical Services:							
Biosecurity	1,810,502	0	1,952,000	0	1,500,000	3,452,000	0
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	10,395,863	70	10,468,000	70	3,673,000	14,141,000	83
Environmental Compliance	2,626,470	20	2,626,000	20	86,000	2,712,000	20
Plant Methods Development Labs	8,449,650	108	8,450,000	108	3,482,000	11,932,000	116
Veterinary Biologics	15,490,530	180	15,491,000	180	4,376,000	19,867,000	200
Veterinary Diagnostics	22,661,100	267	22,661,000	267	10,283,000	32,944,000	270
Wildlife Services Methods Development	17,092,112	162	17,216,000	162	716,000	17,932,000	168
Subtotal, Scientific and Technical Services	78,526,227	807	78,864,000	807	24,116,000	102,980,000	857
Management Initiatives:							
APHIS Info. Technology Infrastructure	4,277,406	0	4,506,000	0	523,000	5,029,000	0
Physical/Operational Security	980,969	0	990,000	0	5,502,000	6,492,000	0
Subtotal, Management Initiatives	5,258,375	0	5,496,000	0	6,025,000	11,521,000	0
					0		
Total Available	754,715,452	4,564	825,198,000	4,695	120,352,000	945,550,000	5,031
Unobligated Balances, end of year	52,590,938	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescission	8,154,610	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplemental - Avian Influenza	42,972,451	105	28,527,549	45	0	0	0
Unobligated Balances, end of year	28,527,549	45	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Available Appropriations	$886,961,000	4,714	$853,725,549	4,740	$120,352,000	$945,550,000	5,031

Justification of Increases and Decreases

(1) An increase of $12,230,000 for employee compensation, which includes annualization of the FY 2007 pay raise and the anticipated FY 2008 pay raise

(a) This increase will enable APHIS to maintain current staffing levels, which are critical to achieving the Agency's objective of protecting American agriculture. Because a large portion of APHIS' budget is in support of personnel compensation, absorbing pay costs would require a reduction in direct program operations and severely limit the Agency's ability to conduct offshore threat assessment and risk reduction activities; regulate and monitor to reduce the risk of introduction of invasive species; ensure the safe research, release, and movement of agricultural biotechnology events; manage issues related to the health of U.S. animal and plant resources and conflicts with wildlife; and develop emergency preparedness and response capabilities to quickly detect, contain and eradicate animal and plant pest and disease outbreaks.

(2) An increase of $23,584,000 and 44 staff years for Pest and Disease Exclusion Activities:

Program Assessment Rating Tool: The Pest and Disease Exclusion Programs were rated Effective with a score of 86 percent during the Fiscal Year 2006 budget cycle. The Office of Management and Budget rated these programs effective because they targeted infestations at their source, reducing the likelihood of the problem reaching the United States. The PART recommended that APHIS continue to establish baselines for its performance measures for the Pest and Disease Exclusion programs, which we have continued to do.

A net decrease of $1,427,000 and 0 staff years for the Agriculture Quarantine Inspection program ($27,249,000 and 303 staff years available in 2007).

The Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program protects the United States from the risks associated with the introduction of invasive agricultural pests and diseases. APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security cooperate to carry out this program, and fund the programs through a combination of appropriations and user fees. APHIS receives appropriated funding to conduct pre-departure agricultural inspections of passengers and cargo traveling from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and other islands to the mainland United States. To assist Hawaii, we also conduct inspections of passengers traveling from outlying Hawaiian Islands to Honolulu en route to the mainland. In FY 2008, we expect to conduct most of these activities through a reimbursable agreement funded by the State of Hawaii. As a result, this part of the program will decrease by $2,220,000. Of this funding, $793,000 will support high-priority activities and maintenance costs at the National Germplasm Laboratory, where APHIS screens high-risk imported germplasm and conducts quarantine testing. Certain germplasm, such as nursery stock imported for breeding programs, poses particular risks because it can carry pathogens that are not visually detectable and that could be introduced into the environment through the planting of infected nursery stock. Accordingly, APHIS evaluates this high-risk germplasm carefully to prevent the introduction of exotic plant diseases. In FY 2006, APHIS fully resumed conducting the Germplasm Indexing Program after temporarily transferring the function to USDA's Agricultural Research Service while construction of the National Germplasm Laboratory was completed. The funding shift of $793,000 will help cover the costs associated with the resumption of this program.

(a) An increase of $1,860,000 and 4 staff years for the Cattle Fever Tick program ($7,551,000 and 110 staff years available in FY 2007).

The Cattle Fever Tick program strives to prevent the re-introduction and establishment of cattle fever ticks and bovine babesiosis in the continental United States by maintaining a permanent quarantine zone between Texas and Mexico, also known as the buffer zone. However, the number

of tick-infested premises in the permanent quarantine and free areas has increased dramatically in recent years. The economic health of the U.S. cattle industry is dependent upon APHIS' ability to prevent the re-introduction and eventual eradication of the cattle fever tick along the Rio Grande River.

During FY 2006, APHIS horseback river patrols along the U.S./Mexican border apprehended a total of 97 Mexican livestock compared to 35 livestock in FY 2005, a 277 percent increase of total apprehensions. Out of 42 cattle apprehended, 23 were infested with cattle ticks. Out of 55 horses apprehended, 5 were infested with cattle ticks.

During FY 2006, 65 infested premises were discovered: 50 were located in the quarantine zone while 15 were discovered in the free area. Thus far, APHIS recognizes several causes for the rising number of infestations in the free area, such as more exotic livestock (elk, antelope) ranches without the necessary high fencing; the unrestrained movement of wild animals that are infested with ticks; the wettest season in 30 years, which has enabled ticks to live longer; and a continued reduction of river patrols since 2003 due to workforce being deployed to other emergencies, thus allowing strays to get through the border and ultimately increase the population.

Due to the overwhelming increase of infested premises, the program expended resources more quickly than planned and was not equipped to carry out all eradication activities necessary to eliminate and curtail the spread of the pest. As a result, APHIS developed a 5-year strategic plan to address the issue. In addition to drawing upon APHIS expertise, the Agency collaborated with several outside Agencies to develop the cattle fever tick strategic plan, including the Agricultural Research Service's U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory; the Texas Animal Health Commission; Texas A&M University's Department of Pathobiology; and the University of Georgia's Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study.

APHIS is requesting $1.86 million and 4 staff years to initiate the implementation of the 5-year strategic plan to assist in moving the quarantine zone south of the U. S. border. Implementation of the strategic plan will allow APHIS to accomplish five program goals, with objectives and action items to accomplish each goal, necessary to achieve complete eradication of the cattle fever tick. The goals and action items include: (a) preventing the entry of cattle fever ticks into the United States by clearing and maintaining trails along the river (which is a constant requirement), identifying areas of high activity of tick incursions and developing agreements with wildlife agencies for controlling whitetail deer and exotic ungulates that cross the river from Mexico; (b) maintaining an effective surveillance program to rapidly detect any cattle fever tick incursions by working with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to develop comprehensive standards; (c) preventing the establishment of cattle fever tick infestations by developing, enforcing, and updating standards to quickly eradicate infestations; (d) identifying and procuring the tools and knowledge necessary to maintain the United States as free of cattle fever ticks, together with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, TAHC, and other cooperators; and (e) collaborating with Mexico to eliminate cattle fever ticks in areas of Mexico that impact the United States.

The budget increase will support 4 new tick inspectors and allow APHIS to update needed equipment, repair facilities, and acquire needed supplies and materials. The inspectors will assist with: conducting systematic treatment of livestock in infested and exposed premises in the quarantined area and free area; conducting treatment of deer and exotics in infested premises; conducting 14-day inspections of quarantined premises; inspecting and treating livestock moved within or from the quarantined area, or from quarantined premises in the free area; conducting horseback patrols of the international boundary; apprehending, inspecting, treating, and hauling to quarantine facilities animals of Mexican origin and native stray livestock when required; cleaning and disinfecting equipment and premises; operating biodegradation systems; managing dipping

vats and testing vat samples; and, tracing animals moved from infested herds, and inspection and treatment of trace-out cattle. The increased inspections will allow more timely and efficient inspections and treatments.

The additional funding will allow the program to conduct the number of river patrols or systematic treatments that are necessary for the program to be effective. We will be able to replace old equipment (in some cases 30+ year-old equipment); upgrade to newer, better technologies for communicating or recording spatially referenced data; begin the installation of any high, game-proof fencing along 200 miles of quarantine line; and support methods development work for treating tick-infested wildlife. As a result, we anticipate more infestations would be identified in the quarantine and free areas. In FY 2008 cooperative agreements for the program will remain at 2007 levels and will be matched 50/50 by cooperator funding. This action will leverage Federal funding to achieve these program goals.

APHIS will measure overall program performance by the percentage of cattle fever tick outbreaks outside the quarantine zone that are eliminated in less than 12 months. The Agency's target for 2008 is to continue to eradicate 100 percent of cattle tick infestations once identified. Outside of the permanent quarantine zone, the risk of cattle fever ticks spreading into areas currently free of ticks will be minimized or eliminated.

(b) An increase of $4,508,000 and 23 staff years for the Foreign Animal Disease/Foot-and-Mouth Disease program ($8,656,000 and 27 staff years available in 2007).

Foreign animal diseases (FADs) pose a serious threat to the U.S. livestock industry, valued at more than $87 billion. The costs associated with an outbreak of an FAD are staggering. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a highly contagious disease in cloven-hoofed animals, is present in over 60 percent of the world's countries. An FMD outbreak similar to the one that occurred in the United Kingdom in 2001 would cost the United States approximately $14 billion. An outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in 2002 and 2003 cost $176 million to eradicate and cost the poultry industry $121 million in export losses. Prior to a program to eradicate hog cholera, estimated losses attributed to the diseases were $349 million per year. APHIS' ability to monitor FADs offshore and prevent their entry into the United States is critical to preventing losses to the U.S. livestock industry.

APHIS' FAD/FMD program provides a first line of defense against FAD introductions into the United States. In keeping with the recommendations of the Animal Health Safeguarding Review of 2002, APHIS is expanding the program's activities to include the formal collection of international animal health information. This information will allow APHIS to conduct risk assessments and regulate imports more effectively as well as provide an overall picture of global animal health trends.

APHIS will establish a network of Foreign Service Officers in strategic locations around the world by 2008 to monitor and track known diseases as well as to help detect new, previously unknown diseases. With a $4.508 million increase and in conjunction with the Pest Detection program, APHIS will place 7 Foreign Service Officers and 12 Foreign Service Nationals overseas to act as animal health specialists to collect information on incipient threats to U.S. animal health. The Agency plans to locate these specialists in Brazil, Dominican Republic, and South Africa. In addition, the increase includes 4 program support positions to work in scientific institutions such as universities or with international organizations. Because much animal health information is often not available in developing countries, the officers would offer grants to host country scientists to study particular pest and disease situations of interest to the international animal and plant health community. This will help bolster the host country's animal health regulatory infrastructure, thus protecting U.S. agricultural resources from animal disease threats. APHIS'

performance target for the FAD/FMD program is zero foreign animal disease introductions into the United States.

Currently, APHIS relies on information from open sources worldwide animal health events, which often takes weeks or months to announce from the time of the incident. Without this increase, the Agency will not have the necessary data to quickly gather more data to report offshore animal health events by using contacts, local press, meetings, academic channels, and other local resources. This will heighten the risk of FAD introductions in the United States causing our domestic livestock population to be more susceptible to FADs.

(c) An increase of $14,464,000 and 4 staff years for the Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection program ($59,377,000 and 373 staff years available in 2007).

The Mediterranean fruit fly, commonly called Medfly or Moscamed in Spanish, is one of the world's most destructive agricultural pests. The female Medfly attacks ripening fruit, piercing the soft skin and laying eggs in the puncture. The flies spend their larval stages feeding and growing in over 400 host plants. Introduction of these pest species into the United States causes economic losses from destruction and spoiling of host commodities by larvae, costs associated with implementing control measures, and loss of market share due to restrictions on shipment of host commodities. California and Florida are at highest risk from exotic fruit fly establishment. The market value of exotic fruit fly host commodities totaled about $7.2 billion in the United States in 2002, with approximately $5.1 billion of that grown in California and $1.8 billion in Florida. USDA's Agricultural Research Service estimated that establishment of the Medfly in the continental United States would cost between $830 million and $1 billion dollars per year to the economy. Furthermore, its presence would seriously disrupt many of the pest management programs now in place, because control efforts would necessitate extensive pesticide usage.

APHIS' Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection program protects the health and value of American agricultural resources threatened by the establishment of exotic fruit fly populations. The Agency cooperates with Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize on the Moscamed program to mitigate the risk of the northward spread of the Medfly population via Mexico, which is one of the highest-risk pest pathways threatening the United States. To accomplish this goal, the Moscamed program conducts survey, regulatory, and control activities. The current barrier along the Mexico-Guatemala border prevents the Medfly from infesting northern Mexico. Yet, the presence of the Medfly in the rest of Central America significantly threatens the United States. Through DNA analysis, the Agency has linked several Medfly detections in the United States to Central American populations, even with the barrier in place. Within the last year, the Agency reported outbreaks in Tijuana, Mexico and detected various Medfly populations in California, which led to quarantines. APHIS' long-term solution is to eliminate Medfly from Central America.

APHIS requests approximately $14.464 million and 4 staff years to strengthen the Moscamed program along the Mexico-Guatemala border. For several years, the program has contained the Medfly within close proximity of the Mexico-Guatemala border. With the additional funds, the program will fully maintain the barrier at the Mexico-Guatemala border. The program will begin a quality control program in Mexico to monitor trapping and response activities to ensure the timely and effective response to any new outbreaks in the Medfly-free areas of southern Mexico. The Agency will expand sterile fly production to 3.2 billion flies per week, and provide resources for aerial operations and bait spray. In addition, the program expects to increase the Medfly-free area in Mexico and Guatemala. The current size of the free area within the project's operational zones is 70,000 square kilometers. With the increased funding, the program plans to add 35,000 square kilometer to the free area.

Without the additional $14.464 million, APHIS will not have the resources to maintain the barrier zone at the Mexico-Guatemala border. The Agency anticipates several outbreaks above the current barrier zone each year requiring emergency responses to prevent the spread of the pest into the United States. The Agency estimates the cost of domestic eradication to be substantially higher than eradication costs projected for Central America.

(d) A decrease of $949,000 and 0 staff years for the Import/Export program ($12,368,000 and 147 staff years available in 2007).

APHIS requests a decrease of $949,000 for the Import/Export program to transfer financial responsibility for the Pest Detection Augmentation Program to the State of California. At this funding level, the number of foreign animal disease outbreaks associated with imports allowed by the recognition of animal health status within foreign regions will remain at zero, and the number of export markets opened, expanded, or retained by domestic regionalization will be two.

(e) An increase of $2,915,000 and 0 staff years for the Screwworm program ($27,720,000 and 36 staff years available in 2007).

Screwworms are a parasites that can cause great damage to domestic livestock and other warmblooded animals. The larvae of this pest enter open wounds of the host animal and feed on the raw flesh. APHIS estimates that livestock mortality caused by the screwworm cost $121.7 million to livestock producers in the southwest in 1973. In 2006 dollars, this would be about $545 million. The study also estimated consumer losses due to the reduction in "meat supply" over $656 million in 2006 dollars. The total loss would amount to $1.201 billion.

The screwworm program, consisting of cooperative efforts with Mexico, and countries of Central America and Panama, has eradicated the pest to the narrowest point in Panama. The program's next step is to establish the permanent barrier against the pest at the Panama-Colombia border. Once the barrier is in place, U.S. livestock producers will have secure protection against this costly pest.

The Agency is establishing a new sterile fly rearing facility in Panama, closer to the region where screwworm has not been eradicated. Eventually, this facility will replace the facility in Mexico and will reduce the risk of re-infestation to the United States through accidental release of fertile flies. The program will use $2.915 million to purchase essential equipment needed to run the new screwworm plant (x-ray machines, trailers, safety equipment, conveyors, vehicles, lab equipment etc), thus preventing the need for shifting funds set aside for the final phase of construction of the screwworm plant, scheduled to begin operating at full capacity in FY 2008. This one-time increase would avoid the diversion of funds that would delay the plant becoming fully operational and increase costs. The lack of necessary equipment would delay the establishment of an effective and efficient barrier against the screwworm. With this increase, APHIS will achieve its goal of zero screwworm cases in Central America in FY 2008.

(f) An increase of $2,209,000 and 13 staff years for the Trade Issues Resolution and Management program ($12,457,000 and 52 staff years available in 2007).

In 2005, APHIS expanded, retained or opened new market access to United States agricultural exports worth $1.4 billion dollars. When sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) related issues occur in markets where APHIS does not have an attaché, there is significant delay in resolving the issues or they are not resolved at all. There are various important export markets where APHIS either has no presence or needs to increase its presence to address SPS and market issues to build international support for trade agreements, facilitate safe agricultural trade, and make markets available to United States agricultural exports. The increasing burden brought on by new Free

Trade Agreements such as those with Chile, Morocco, Australia and Central American countries requires significant resources to prepare for negotiations and SPS resolution. Domestic disease outbreaks such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy have also increased the need for trade attachés to negotiate with foreign governments to either open agricultural markets that have closed or keep markets open if countries are threatening to close them.

APHIS will use the $2.209 million increasing to open offices in India, Italy and West Africa. The increase includes 13 staff years comprised of APHIS attachés, local staff and trade support analysts. Italy serves as the host country to the International Plant Protection Convention and U.S. agricultural exports to Italy were valued at $566 milllion in 2005; U.S. agricultural exports to India were valued at $294 million in 2005 and Western Africa is a region of the world that holds many potential plant and animal disease threats with no infrastructure to assess and address the threat. With this increase, the additional value of expanded and retained markets, new market access and trade facilitated by APHIS will be more than $1 billion.

(3) An increase of $65,819,000 and 131 staff years for Plant and Animal Health Monitoring Activities:

Program Assessment Rating Tool: The Plant and Animal Health Monitoring programs received an Effective rating with a score of 87 percent during the Fiscal Year 2005 budget cycle. The PART recommended the programs develop efficiency measures. Accordingly, APHIS has developed two efficiency measures; the time required for reporting of sample results, and the average cost of each surveillance activity. APHIS has begun collecting the data needed to calculate efficiency.

(a) A net increase of $16,994,000 and 19 staff years for the Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance Program ($135,661,000 and 885 staff years included in FY 2007).

APHIS' Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance (AHMS) program is instrumental in safeguarding the health of U.S. livestock. The program has several components that work as a system to find animal diseases quickly, trace their origin, and prevent their spread. Detecting a disease before many animals have been exposed to it limits the spread and allows more time for eradication and control efforts. The Agency estimates that a half week delay in intervention can increase cleaning, disinfection, depopulation, and quarantine costs by $70 million, and increase total costs by $135 million, including production and trade losses related to a major disease event. Therefore, the monitoring and surveillance activities within the AHMS program are crucial to minimizing and preventing damages to the U.S. livestock industry.

With a $16.994 million net increase including a reduction of $2.223 million within the AHMS base funding, APHIS will support the goal of safeguarding the health of U.S. livestock. APHIS determined its highest priorities to be expanding the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, enhancing the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), and expanding the National Veterinary Accreditation Program. APHIS will gain the resources it needs to carry out agricultural defense activities by reducing the amount provided directly to Vermont for bio-safety issues by $322,000; Iowa State University for risk assessments by $371,000; the National Farm Animal Identification and Records program by $594,000; the New Mexico Rapid Syndrome Validation Program by $542,000; the Population Management Center in Illinois by $49,000; and other miscellaneous monitoring and surveillance activities by $354,000.

APHIS will use $4.016 million to expand the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) by upgrading three laboratories to meet biosafety level (BSL)-3 requirements. In order to meet NAHLN standards, the laboratories are required to include biosafety cabinets, controlled double-door laboratory access, and special facility engineering. The laboratories must have

several safeguards to ensure that infectious agents are properly contained or destroyed. In addition, laboratory personnel are required to undergo special training and receive preventive vaccines, when available. Including the three laboratories to be upgraded with the increase, APHIS will have 14 BSL-3 laboratories in the NAHLN by FY 2008. These laboratories will screen-test surveillance samples at their locations, adding more capacity to the national surveillance program.

APHIS requests $2.486 million to enhance the National Surveillance Unit (NSU). The NSU develops and enhances national animal health surveillance through evaluation, design, analysis, prioritization, and integration. Specifically, the Agency will use $1.793 million to support 5 veterinary medical officers, 5 epidemiologists, 1 agricultural economist, 1 statistician, and 3 support staff. The Agency will also use $693,000 to support the team with equipment, training, and travel. The increase will support the NSU to conduct ongoing activities such as coordinating and integrating surveillance activities to maximize the efficiency of national animal health surveillance; planning and designing of surveillance strategies; working with other staffs within the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health to enhance surveillance of animal health domestic diseases, foreign animal diseases, and emerging animal diseases; providing a focal point for the collection, analysis and dissemination of surveillance information for the purposes of action planning and risk analysis; and evaluating the overall efficacy of the Agency's national animal health surveillance and specific surveillance tools.

APHIS requests $2.402 million to enhance the National Veterinary Accreditation Program. In particular, the Agency will use $1.495 million to develop web-based certification and training modules for veterinarians. The Agency will use $489,000 to program the Veterinary Accreditation module of the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining system. This web-based program will provide a method for veterinarians to expand their knowledge of, and vigilance for looking for and recognizing foreign animal diseases at a significant savings to them in time and money. The Agency will use $418,000 to hire one veterinary medical officer, one veterinary practitioner specialist, and two program analysts to administer the enhanced program by developing training modules and conducting outreach activities to increase the number of accredited veterinarians.

Pursuant to the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution the amount available for the National Animal Identification System in FY 2007 was based on the FY 2006 appropriation, less no-year funding carried forward. The FY 2008 budget restores the FY 2007 reduction of $10.313 million to allow the program to continue operating at existing levels.

APHIS will measure overall program performance by the number of significant introductions of foreign animal pests or diseases that spread beyond the original area of introduction and cause severe economic or environmental damage, or damage to the health of animals. The Agency's target for 2008 is zero introductions. By helping develop more efficient animal trace back mechanisms, equipping labs to screen tests for foreign animal diseases, building comprehensive surveillance systems, and increasing a field workforce to conduct surveillance, the Agency will be able to detect disease faster, minimize the spread of disease, and assist in keeping global trade markets open to U.S. animals and animal products.

Without additional funds, the Agency will be less capable of detecting a foreign animal disease in its original area of introduction; therefore, we expect that the likelihood of the disease spreading will be higher. In particular, the Agency will not be able to increase the number of BSL-3 facilities approved to test for highly pathogenic and communicable diseases such as avian influenza and encephalitis; support a team of experts to integrate solutions for animal health surveillance thereby increasing efficiency and effectiveness; or support accredited veterinarians

who are instrumental in increasing our capability to maintain extensive disease surveillance and monitoring.

(b) An increase of $2,143,000 and 18 staff years for the Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement program ($10,295,000 and 109 staff years available in 2007).

The Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement (APHRE) program ensures compliance with animal and plant health related regulations through comprehensive investigations, sound enforcement, and strong educational efforts. Professionally trained field investigators stationed throughout the United States conduct investigations, track unresolved violation cases, and coordinate investigative efforts within APHIS and with other Federal and State agencies. A small headquarters staff coordinates enforcement actions on a national basis, reviews and processes cases for formal administrative action or criminal prosecution, develops uniform penalty guidelines, collects civil penalties, and coordinates activity between APHIS and the Office of the General Counsel.

The effectiveness of the regulatory enforcement program is under continual strain due to greatly increased demand for program services, which has significantly outpaced available resources. In FY 2006, APHIS investigated a total of 5,140 cases; a significant increase in the 3,253 enforcement cases investigated in FY 2005. Agricultural Quarantine Inspection cases - the major portion of which come from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Department of Homeland Security - continue to increase at a rapid rate. In FY 2006, over 3,000 such cases have been referred to APHIS, which is more than triple the number of CBP cases for all of FY 2005. The number of animal welfare cases also remains at a record high level for the second consecutive year.

The program requests an increase of $2.143 million to hire and train 18 new field investigators. APHIS plans to place 15 of the personnel in areas close to major ports-of-entry to help meet the rapidly increasing number of cases involving port violations referred by CBP. The threat of plant pests and animal diseases and the dangers of bioterrorism make it imperative that APHIS field a strong investigative capability so that our primary clients maintain confidence in the Agency's enforcement program and continue to refer cases. CBP has been increasing the number of Agriculture Specialist Inspectors at ports-of-entry, thus resulting in increased agriculture referrals to APHIS. In addition, the CBP performance goals promote the aggressive enforcement of agriculture regulations.

The remaining three investigators will be stationed in an area of the country with a high concentration of animal welfare facilities, which will allow the program to respond to an anticipated increase in case referrals from APHIS' Animal Care (AC) program. The number of referrals is expected to rise significantly in FY 2008 as that program expands its coverage to include facilities that contain rats, mice, and birds not involved in research.

At the end of FY 2006, the number of open cases stands at 4,806 compared to 3,413 open cases on January 1, 2006. This is reflective of the rapid increase in case referrals from CBP, in response to which the program has hired several case examiners at Headquarters to help alleviate the backlog. One of the measures used by the program to track effectiveness is the average number of days it takes to resolve a case. Currently the program is focusing on closing cases that have been open the longest. For FY 2006, the average time needed to resolve a case was 184 days, which is down significantly from the 209 days needed in FY 2005 and 257 days from FY 2004. The proposed increase in staffing will enable the program to maintain this significant improvement, handle an anticipated further increase in referrals, and achieve an additional 10 percent reduction in the number of days it takes to resolve a case, resulting in a target of 170 days in FY 2008. The

Agency expects each new investigator to handle an average of 10 cases the first year and an average of 25 cases in the second year when fully trained.

Without additional resources, potential ramifications include a loss of confidence in the enforcement program, which in turn could result in a reluctance of inspectors to identify violations and request enforcement action. For example, violation referrals from CBP are a key performance measure of that organization's dedication to the agriculture mission. If APHIS is unable to respond effectively and timely to those referrals, it could frustrate and discourage the reporting of alleged violations at ports of entry. Another ramification of the growing backlog of cases would be a loss of the deterrent effect gained from prompt investigations and prosecutions, and consequently a reduction in voluntary compliance. This could significantly increase the risk of a foreign pest or disease entering the United States, perhaps prompting a serious emergency. It would take only one successful investigation into an illegal importation or interstate movement of a diseased or infested animal or plant to save millions in the potential costs associated with an eradication program.

(c) An increase of $544,000 and 0 staff-years for the Biosurveillance program, ($1,987,000 and 4 staff years available in 2007).

The Biosurveillance program provides data and analysis of animal and plant health surveillance and intelligence in compliance with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS) initiative. Biosurveillance supports this initiative, which involves the development of a computer automated communication and information technology system that accomplishes real-time integration and analysis of human, animal, plant, and environmental surveillance information and interpretation of the analysis in the context of the threat environment. The USDA, under the co-leadership of APHIS and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), is developing the Food and Agriculture Biosurveillance Integration System (FABIS). Through the fusion of existing USDA sensor/collection systems' data, the FABIS mission is to proactively identify threats (naturally occurring or human induced), major disasters, and other emergencies affecting agriculture and USDA-regulated food products. FABIS is being developed in accordance with the requirements set forth in Homeland Security Presidential Directives 9 and 10. Once operational, FABIS will produce a comprehensive and fully-coordinated view of information gathered from existing operational systems. Fusion of these sources within the FABIS will facilitate timely analysis of data across both agencies and provide a common operating picture for the state of U.S. agricultural health. In addition, this new "fused view" will result in significant cost savings for APHIS, FSIS, and USDA as a whole by allowing for the early identification of disease outbreaks, thus limiting the extent of contamination and injury.

With the additional funding, the program will have 100 percent of APHIS datasets connected to FABIS by FY 2010, and will have 2 staff years supporting the system and analyzing the data. The program will determine to what percent we have met the requirement to provide information products to DHS by tracking the number of data sets connected, building out the system, and establishing infrastructure to do USDA-level fusion and analysis.

The additional funding will ensure that incidents are detected in a timely manner, avoiding increased response time and greater costs to the public and the Federal government. The funding could prevent the potential for severe economic fluctuations due to incomplete data being shared with the Administration and the public about the health of U.S. agriculture. Finally, Homeland Security concerns may require that these activities take place and the requested funding would prevent the need to pull funds from other APHIS mission essential programs to comply with the mandate.

(d) An increase of $7,851,000 and 11 staff years for the Emergency Management Systems program ($13,549,000 and 80 staff years available in 2007).

The Emergency Management Systems (EMS) program operations revolve around building cooperative relationships with States, local governments, Tribal Nations, academia, animal industry stakeholders, and international organizations with the goal of developing response capabilities for outbreaks of invasive animal pests and diseases in the U.S. The program focuses on establishing emergency response guidelines at the national level, training cooperators at the local level, implementing the National Response Plan and integrating the Incident Command System into emergency management operations. In addition, EMS is designed to establish liaison activities with other Federal Agencies and Departments engaged in emergency management, such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

APHIS is requesting $3.916 million and 5 staff years to increase emergency coordination capacity at Headquarters and to expand emergency response planning efforts at the State and local levels. Specifically, the additional staff is needed to create and fill embedded positions at different directorates within DHS, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They will coordinate activities and present APHIS' point of view and animal health program management practices to DHS. A uniform network of emergency coordinators with guidance and direction at the national level is essential in creating a standardized methodology in incident response, and in providing liaison with State and local resources. The goal of this effort is to improve readiness—at the Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels—to respond to disease incursions or acts of bioterrorism; and respond effectively and efficiently to all hazard animal health incidents. APHIS will use approximately $2.5 million of the requested amount to expand EMS training and response planning at the State and local levels. The training will include the incorporation of National Incident Management System with State and local response exercises. This effort will reinforce the National Response Plan's Emergency Support Function related to agriculture, specifically, animal health in agriculture.

APHIS is requesting an additional $2.935 million and 2 staff years for resources to stockpile sufficient levels of supplies, vaccines, materials, and equipment needed to respond to disease outbreaks. Due to the emergency response nature of the stockpile, positions such as logisticians, distribution experts, and management specialists are essential to perform these services.

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) is a key component of APHIS' emergency response systems and APHIS' preparedness to respond to an intentional or unintentional introduction of damaging diseases affecting, agriculture, public health, and the food system. The Secretary of Agriculture established the NVS program to plan, program and manage responsibilities cited in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9. The establishment of the NVS provides the best possible protection against an intentional or unintentional introduction of an animal disease or the occurrence of a natural disaster affecting animal agriculture and the food system. The NVS will stockpile any animal disease vaccine, antiviral, or therapeutic products including reagents, disinfectants, and equipment needed to respond to the most damaging animal diseases affecting human or animal health and the economy. Resources required to address an animal disease emergency will be readily available for immediate distribution and use should an incident occur. APHIS is in the process of developing a comprehensive business plan for the NVS. This business plan will provide program direction in the use, management, planning, and coordination of NVS activities within APHIS, and will identify its role in national response to emergencies.

APHIS also has the unique responsibility of providing rescue, protective care, feeding and identification of animals separated from their owners in the event of a declared national emergency. APHIS currently does not have the resources and infrastructure required to fulfill this responsibility. APHIS requests $1 million and 4 SYs to build capacity dedicated to planning,

coordinating, and effectively responding to Federally-declared disasters and emergencies that threaten the safety and well-being of animals. Currently, the Agency operates in a reactive mode whenever a disaster or emergency strikes, detailing existing program personnel for an extended period of time. This has an adverse impact on the Agency's ability to conduct normal regulatory activities. Implementing this initiative will allow APHIS to employ personnel with specialized expertise to properly carry out the unique responsibilities during emergencies and disasters. Specifically, the program seeks to hire personnel as follows: 1 staff officer at Headquarters to coordinate activities within APHIS and serve as a liaison with the Department of Homeland Security, assist with pet rescue and reunification, and develop and maintain a database of credentialed organizations; 2 Regional Coordinators to help coordinate emergency response activities related to companion animals, establish disaster assistance sites to administer relief services, coordinate the activities of State and local governments, other Federal agencies and volunteer organizations, and assist with credentialing; and 1 support person at Headquarters to provide administrative and logistical support to personnel involved with the emergency and/or disaster response. Funding will also be used for activities to support the function such as database development, transportation, and other necessary equipment.

In recent years, APHIS has worked with the Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on outbreaks of lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, monkeypox, and *E. coli* in petting zoos. The Agency has also assisted with relief efforts after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, providing aid in the rescue of pets and Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-regulated animals. Using expertise in animal welfare gained through administering the AWA, APHIS program has provided valuable assistance with pet rescues during the two hurricanes, but at the expense of conducting routine AWA inspections. The Agency would like to fully engage in the responsibility and formally adopt the function into the emergency response model. APHIS will track the number of pets reunited with owners and the number of animals rescued during a response. Without the requested increase, the Agency will be forced to continue providing the services in a reactive, ad-hoc manner while disrupting other programs.

(e) A net increase of $19,525,000 and 0 staff years for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza program ($37,205,000 and 131 staff years available in 2007).

USDA has both an international and domestic role in controlling the spread of avian influenza (AI) and reducing its effects to both the economy and public health. Internationally, USDA is working closely with international organizations like the World Organization for Animal Health (OEI), the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Health Organization (WHO) to assist HPAI H5N1 affected regions with disease prevention, management, and eradication activities. By helping these countries prepare for, manage, or eradicate HPAI H5N1 outbreaks, USDA can reduce the risk of disease spreading from overseas to the United States. Domestically, USDA has worked to further strengthen safeguards in place to protect against the introduction of HPAI H5N1 into the United States. Increased surveillance between both wild and commercial bird populations serves as an early warning system and will help federal and state officials rapidly detect and prevent spread of the disease in the United States. In the event of a detection of HPAI, APHIS personnel are the primary Federal responders along with State counterparts. APHIS and State animal health officials are working cooperatively with the poultry industry to conduct surveillance at breeding flocks, slaughter plants, live-bird markets, livestock auctions, and poultry dealers.

In FY 2006, APHIS received $71.5 million in supplemental funding to develop an AI surveillance and preparedness program. APHIS seeks to continue its AI preparedness activities in FY 2008, and requests an increase of $480,000 to continue international capacity building efforts and $19.045 million to continue domestic surveillance and preparedness activities.

APHIS requests $480,000 to continue its international capacity building efforts in countries most affected by the disease. Specifically, the international program will promote knowledge transfer and the establishment of preparedness and response plans, and provide technical assistance in developing knowledge and experience in surveillance and surveillance techniques. Each of these international efforts increases the countries' ability to address the disease and its spread, thereby reducing the risk of a domestic introduction in the United States.

APHIS requests an increase of $9.045 million to support domestic surveillance and diagnostic and emergency preparedness activities. Specifically, APHIS will continue surveillance activities in live bird markets in those areas of greatest risk to the introduction of AI. In addition, the Agency will continue to provide Federal leadership in conducting surveillance throughout wildlife populations. Routine HPAI surveillance throughout wildlife populations allows APHIS to administer a more comprehensive plan to protect the U.S. poultry and swine industry. The Agency's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) will continue to provide the testing and diagnostic services related to the AI surveillance and preparedness efforts.

Recognizing that smuggled agricultural products pose a threat to the introduction of foreign animal disease, APHIS will continue with smuggling interdiction efforts to aid in the detection of HPAI poultry products and live birds entering into U.S. commerce illegally. APHIS will work with other Federal agencies to collect information, analyze potential pathways, survey commerce sites, and assist in verifying inbound cargo and passenger belongings to prevent the entry of AI. APHIS' Investigative and Enforcement Services program will provide investigation of alleged violations of Federal laws and regulations identified by smuggling interdiction and surveillance activities.

APHIS will further enhance emergency preparedness activities, including education and outreach, information technology and database support, computer modeling, training, and equipping state management teams, and the National Veterinary Stockpile. APHIS recognizes that the AI surveillance and preparedness calls for significant resources. These resource requirements are greater than the Agency's internal capacity. APHIS uses contracts, fee for service, and cooperative agreements to address the resource gap issue without increasing the Agency's recurring fiscal requirements.

The Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza assigns responsibility to the USDA for leading the Federal Government's animal health efforts to combat HPAI H5N1 worldwide. USDA's vigilant efforts aim to slow the spread of HPAI overseas and prepare for the possible arrival of HPAI H5N1 in the United States. APHIS is committed to protecting animal health and ensuring that our nation continues to provide the safest food supply in the world.

The CR level of $37.2 million takes into account about $28 million in balance available from the FY 2006 supplemental. The 2008 budget restores the FY 2007 reduction of $10 million to allow the program to continue operating at existing levels.

The additional funding will ensure that APHIS is capable of adequately preparing for a domestic outbreak of AI. In addition, the funding will provide for a comprehensive early warning surveillance system to detect an introduction of the disease.

(f) A net increase of $13,673,000 and 66 staff years for the Pest Detection program ($27,043,000 and 116 staff years available in 2007).

The Pest Detection program supports APHIS' goal of safeguarding U.S. agricultural and environmental resources by ensuring that new introductions of harmful plant pests and diseases

are detected as soon as possible, before they cause significant damage. This program uses a four-pronged strategy involving threat assessment, ground survey, diagnostic tools, and emergency response capabilities to prevent, detect, and recover from introductions of plant pests and diseases that threaten U.S. agriculture and the environment. For FY 2008, APHIS is requesting a $13.7 million increase to enhance its early detection efforts by 1) increasing the number and intensity of nationwide surveys for high-risk plant pests; 2) strengthening emergency response capabilities; 3) developing molecular diagnostic tools for high-risk pests, such as those on the select agents list, that threaten U.S. agriculture; and 4) enhancing off-shore pest information collection activities.

APHIS will use $5.215 million of the increase to enhance its survey infrastructure, including hiring 29 pest survey specialists and 5 plant pest identifiers to counter the increased sample submissions from the increased level of survey projects as well as outreach initiatives to producers and stakeholders. The program works with States to implement monitoring systems for new pests at high-risk sites such as nurseries and warehouses that receive international cargo. The specialists will work with States to target high-risk areas for monitoring and conducting the formal surveys. In addition, the program is working to develop a means of communicating the information gathered through the surveys to producers, similar to the recent soybean rust effort. More than 70 percent of soybean producers used the program's early warning and public information website to track soybean rust outbreaks in FY 2006 and make informed treatment decisions, preventing unnecessary use of fungicides. An additional 4 staff years will provide administrative support.

Of the requested increase for FY 2008, $4.7 million will go to State cooperators for additional Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) surveys. Through its offshore pest information system initiative, the Pest Detection program has identified 667 pests as offshore threats to U.S. agriculture. Each year, APHIS and States prioritize the highest-risk pests and conduct nationwide surveys for them through the CAPS network. In FY 2008, States will receive average increases of approximately $90,000, depending on the commodities and resources at risk. To expand the number of pests covered and make the resulting survey data more useful to producers, APHIS has encouraged States to conduct commodity-based surveys that provide information about various pests that affect a particular crop or resource. For example, 27 States conducted the Exotic Wood-Boring and Bark Beetle survey in calendar year 2006, which can cover up to ten pests at once, rather than conducting individual surveys for each one. In FY 2007, the program is working with citrus-producing States to conduct citrus commodity surveys, and additional commodity-based survey for soybeans and small grains will be added in FY 2008.

To continue increasing our ability to identify high-risk pests before they arrive in the United States, APHIS will use $2.16 million to establish a formal international information collection program. This information will allow us to target cargo and baggage from certain areas for inspection, and plan surveys at ports of entry for pests that pose an imminent threat to U.S. agriculture. It will also help us conduct effective risk assessments and set informed import policy. In conjunction with APHIS' foreign animal disease program, which is also placing animal and plant health specialist overseas, the program has hired a program coordinator and placed people overseas in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and South Africa. Placing employees in other countries significantly expands our access to timely information about global pest distribution. With the additional $2.16 million, APHIS will place 4 additional Foreign Service Officers and 6 Foreign Service Nationals overseas to analyze plant pest and disease information. 2 headquarters staffers will support them. In addition to collecting information about incipient threats to U.S. agriculture and global plant health trends, the officers would provide valuable scientific expertise to the host country and help bolster its plant health status.

An additional $1.429 million and 10 staff years will support new emergency response teams for outbreak locations, such as the site of the first potato cyst nematode detection in FY 2006 in Idaho, to assess the situation and implement any necessary emergency actions. The teams will be trained in the Incident Command System and be prepared to coordinate activities with all other U.S. emergency response agencies. The emergency response team will also develop response plans for high-risk pests and maintain ties with State plant health agencies.

The program will use $1 million and 6 staff years to support its ability to diagnose new plant pathogens rapidly and accurately by hiring additional scientists to validate tests for high-risk pathogens and train Federal, State, and university personnel to run them. Validated tests for new pathogens are essential to effective pest detection and emergency response. With the increase, APHIS plans to have validated tests for an additional 4 high-risk pathogens by FY 2009.

APHIS proposes addressing the aforementioned priorities by reducing funding by $830,610 to allow California to assume responsibility for the California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program. APHIS will continue to support statewide surveys in California through the CAPS program, but APHIS will discontinue the agreement with California to support county-level surveys.

APHIS is measuring its success in detecting new pest introductions by tracking the percentage of known, significant introductions of plant pests or diseases detected before they spread from the original area of colonization and cause severe economic or environmental damage. Our FY 2008 goal is to detect 96 percent of the newly arrived, significant pests before they spread. With eradication programs for pests that were not detected until a decade or more after they arrived (such as Asian longhorned beetle) costing more than $150 million, finding even one additional infestation at an early stage has the potential to save millions of dollars in eradication costs and prevent the damage pests like these can cause.

(g) An increase of $3,139,000 and 6 staff years for the Select Agents program, ($3,484,000 and 18 staff years available in 2007).

In June 2002, the President signed into law the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (ABPA). The Act mandates new regulatory constraints regarding the possession, use, or transfer of agents that pose a grave threat to human or animal and plant health. As required by the Act, APHIS has collaborated with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promulgate joint regulations that prescribe how each agency will perform its role. Regulation of select agents is APHIS' most direct homeland security responsibility, and additional funding is needed if the Agency is to successfully fulfill its mandatory role.

As a result of the increase in grant monies for and general interest in conducting research in select (including zoonotic) agents, increasing numbers of select agent applications, amendments, and transfer requests are being submitted for approval. APHIS is requesting an increase of $2.879 million and 6 staff years to fully carry out our responsibilities mandated under the ABPA. APHIS must register facilities desiring to handle select agents that bear a threat to animal health in a timely and efficient manner, allowing valuable research and diagnostics to proceed. Some of the select agents include avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, brucellosis, classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, heartwater, and exotic Newcastle disease. To respond to the high demand for registry while safeguarding the nation's agricultural resources, APHIS plans to expand on the activities that began in FY 2005: conducting inspectional and compliance activities; developing and providing the necessary specialized training of inspection personnel; and conducting educational activities to regulated communities.

As recommended in a report prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture Officer of the Inspector General (OIG) in response to the events of September 11, 2001, the Department has mandated enhanced security for all laboratories using select agents and toxins. To maintain compliance with the OIG findings, as well as the select agent requirements, APHIS requests an increase of $260,000 to expand current physical security associated with the program, including the barcode inventory tracking system that provides the ability to code diagnostic samples and reagents so that they can easily be identified, inventoried, and monitored using portable barcode readers.

APHIS will measure program performance by the number of events (theft, loss, or release of biological agents from a regulated entity) involving select agents that can be traced to insufficient regulatory oversight. In FY 2008, APHIS aims to protect the United States from events involving select agents by assuring sufficient regulatory oversight.

(h) An increase of $1,950,000 and 11 staff years for the Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance program ($0 and 0 staff years available in 2007).

A key component of a national animal health surveillance system is the ability to identify potential pathways for animal diseases that can be transmitted from wildlife to livestock. One example of how conducting surveillance and control measures for a disease of concern in wildlife benefits the national interest is to examine the Michigan tuberculosis (TB) program, which has been very successful in controlling the prevalence rate of the disease. Approximate losses avoided are $24.9 to $26.2 million per year due to increased cattle production costs, loss of interstate captive cervid sales, and loss of recreational deer hunting license receipts. Every dollar invested in Michigan's TB program returned approximately five dollars in benefits.

With a $1.95 million increase, APHIS will hire 11 wildlife specialists to build on a wildlife disease surveillance system that has an international and domestic component. The Agency will use the system to identify potential pathways for animal diseases and to respond to unintentional and intentional disease introductions in the United States within 24 to 48 hours. In addition, the Agency will provide training and transfer of technology for developing countries to build their animal health infrastructures and thus reduce the likelihood of undetected pathways into the United States.

APHIS' goal is to establish methods for surveillance data collection in wildlife populations and to investigate the prevalence of specific diseases that may move from wildlife to livestock or poultry populations including pseudorabies and bovine TB. With the system, the Agency will provide an infrastructure capable of assisting State, Federal, and Tribal agencies with wildlife disease threats. By supplementing these programs with a nationally coordinated animal surveillance system focused on wildlife, the Agency will support existing programs in the collection of samples, facilitate information exchange, ensure that diseases of national biosecurity concern (e.g., plague, tularemia, classical swine fever) are adequately sampled, and provide additional laboratory infrastructure that would be available for assisting other agencies in disease diagnosis in emergency outbreaks. APHIS will also develop partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security, Canadian and Mexican ministries of agriculture, public health and natural resources agencies, and the Pan-American Health Organization to implement a border disease surveillance program in livestock and wildlife. The system will enhance biosecurity activities and facilitate agricultural agreements in the North American Free Trade Agreement by increasing trade in agricultural products and eliminating the use of sanitary measures as artificial trade barriers. Furthermore, an international border disease surveillance system will proactively reduce the impact of terrorist attacks on agriculture, wildlife, and humans.

Without the proposed base infrastructure and enhanced surveillance capabilities, APHIS' ability to detect the introduction and occurrence of diseases in wildlife that pose a risk to livestock is severely constrained. APHIS will not have the capability to avoid possible ramifications such as loss of consumer confidence in the Nation's food supply; loss of export markets for American agricultural products valued at over $60 billion in 2003; producer losses; vulnerability in biosecurity for diseases affecting agricultural and natural resources, and human health and safety; and an inability to eradicate livestock diseases that are maintained in wildlife. APHIS' goal is to have zero incidents of foreign animal disease outbreaks (related to disease transmission from wildlife) that cause severe economical and environmental damage and spread beyond their original area of introduction.

(4) A net decrease of $12,666,000 and a net increase of 90 staff years for Pest and Disease Management activities:

Program Assessment Rating Tool: APHIS' Emergency Pest and Disease Management programs (including Emerging Plant Pests, Johne's, Low Pathogen Avian Influenza, and Wildlife Services Operations, among others) were evaluated for the Fiscal Year 2007 budget formulation process. These programs were rated Moderately Effective with a score of 84 percent. The PART recommended that APHIS develop a measure that would show the overall economic impact of diseases that escape from quarantine rather than the number of diseases. The ongoing Pest and Disease Management (all remaining programs in this functional area) were evaluated in the FY 2008 budget formulation process. These programs received an Effective rating, with a score of 87 percent.

(a) A decrease of $38,610,000 and 10 staff years, including a permanent redirection of $12,691,000 to establish a Cotton Pests program from the Boll Weevil program ($38,610,000 and 10 staff years available in 2007).

The activities performed under the new Cotton Pests line item support the goal of eradicating the boll weevil and pink bollworm (PBW) — two plant pests that cause millions of dollars in control costs and losses to cotton crops annually. Because the programs to eliminate these pests are being conducted in the same fields by the same personnel, formally merging resources will create synergies that will simplify the administration of both programs and help them continue to progress toward eradication. Funds will be redirected from the boll weevil and PBW programs to consolidate eradication activities under the new line item. APHIS expects the boll weevil program to declare eradication in FY 2009.

(b) A decrease of $1,390,000 and 0 staff years for the Brucellosis program ($10,348,000 and 56 staff years available in 2007).

APHIS requests a $1.39 million decrease for the brucellosis program to transfer financial responsibility for the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee to the affected States ($929,000), and to reduce the amount provided to the State of Montana for the operation of the bison quarantine facility ($461,000). At the requested funding level, the program will still be able to sample 95 percent of cattle eligible at slaughter. However, the States will share more responsibility for supporting activities carried out in targeted or localized areas.

Through a cooperative Federal-State-industry effort and careful herd management, APHIS will continue to work to eliminate the last pockets of brucellosis infection in the United States. Swine brucellosis in feral pigs continues to plague small producers in the southeast and southwest. APHIS will continue the program procedures in domestic cattle and swine for several years after eradication to eliminate any undetected disease. This effort will demonstrate to our international trading partners that the United States is brucellosis-free and that we are continuing to monitor for

the disease. As the management program nears completion for domestic livestock, APHIS will focus on eradicating brucellosis from wildlife.

(c) A net decrease of $6,278,000 and 0 staff years with a redirection of $1,588,000 for the Chronic Wasting Disease program ($18,523,000 and 31 staff years available in 2007).

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a degenerative neurological illness affecting elk and deer (cervids) in North America. APHIS' response to this disease includes: surveillance and management in both farmed and wild populations; assistance to State agencies for quarantine of affected animals and premises, humane euthanasia, and testing affected and exposed animals; and establishment of a voluntary Herd Certification Program (HCP) in coordination with States, the farmed cervid industry, and the U.S. Animal Health Associations. In addition, APHIS is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Tribes, and States to implement an interagency, national plan to help manage CWD in captive and wild cervids.

The success of the voluntary HCP is based upon cooperation and shared responsibility between the Federal government and State and local interests. Since these are local or regional problems, the Federal government must rely on their support. The FY 2008 budget encourages this shared responsibility through a match in which the Federal government will pay for 60 percent of anticipated program needs. Total funding also assumes the use of $1.6 million in unneeded funding from the indemnity program.

APHIS will measure overall program performance by the number of herds enrolled in the CWD Herd Certification Program. The target for FY 2008 is 6,000 herds. By enrolling herds into the program and certifying those that are free of disease, APHIS will help control and eliminate CWD from the farmed cervid industry.

(d) An increase of $16,009,000 and 37 staff years for the Cotton Pests program consisting of: 1) $12,691,000 and 10 staff years redirected from the Boll Weevil program; 2) $3,318,000 and 20 staff years redirected from the Pink Bollworm program; and 3) an increase of 7 staff years for Pink Bollworm eradication activities.

For decades, the boll weevil and pink bollworm (PBW) have cost cotton growers tens of millions of dollars per year in control costs and losses to cotton crops. For technical and operational efficiency, APHIS proposes to merge the Boll Weevil and PBW programs into a single "Cotton Pests" program. Because the programs to eliminate these pests are conducted in the same fields by the same personnel, formally merging resources will create synergies that will simplify the administration of both programs and help them continue progressing toward eradication.

Historically, PBW suppression activities have been limited to protecting the San Joaquin Valley. The redirection of funds will enhance initial eradication efforts near El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, and eventually across Arizona and Southern California, while continuing to protect the San Joaquin Valley. These expanded activities will require 7 additional staff years for increased rearing and releasing of sterile moths to support eradication across the infested Southwestern States. By the end of FY 2008, APHIS expects to have eradicated PBW from 48 percent of currently infested cotton acreage. This compares to 35 percent projected by the end of FY 2007. APHIS expects full PBW eradication by 2013.

The active phase of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program is reaching a successful conclusion. APHIS anticipates the boll weevil will be 99 percent eradicated in FY 2008 and completely eradicated by FY 2009. At that time, APHIS will implement low-cost, post-eradication monitoring to guard against reinfestations.

The Cotton Pests program will continue to coordinate efforts with Federal, State, and local agencies in the United States and Mexico. The operational elements of the program will continue to include: 1) mapping to identify cotton field locations, acreage, and genotypes; 2) detection by trapping and visual surveys; and 3) control using cultural practices, mating disruption with pheromone, Bt transgenic cotton, sterile moth release, and minimal insecticide applications. Eradicating the boll weevil and PBW will lower production costs for growers, increase their yield, and improve fiber quality. Combining the two programs into a single, coordinated effort will maximize the opportunity to eradicate two of the most damaging cotton pests in the world from the United States.

(e) An increase of $30,174,000 and 37 staff years for the Emerging Plant Pests program ($93,214,000 and 238 staff years available in 2007).

The Emerging Plant Pests (EPP) program serves as APHIS' infrastructure for responding promptly to outbreaks and introductions of economically significant plant pests and diseases. Plant pest programs have been costly when pests have been able to spread from their colonization area. APHIS seeks to reduce these costs through enhanced, science-based, early-detection, and rapid response efforts. For FY 2008, the overall increase includes $33.642 million and $3.469 million in decreases. The increases consist of $20.576 million for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), $4.5 million for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN), $3.851 million for the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP), $3.453 million for *Phytophthora ramora* (PR) – the causative pathogen of Sudden Oak Death (SOD), and $1.262 million for Karnal Bunt (KB). The decreases consist of $1.64 million for Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), $1.022 million for glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), $495,000 for hydrilla, and $312,000 for Olive Fruit Fly (OLFF). With these changes, the EPP line item would be distributed as follows (dollars in thousands):

CHRP	EAB	GWSS	ALB	PR	PCN	KB	Other	Total
$34,409	$30,657	$23,174	$18,316	$6,540	$ 4,500	$2,764	$3,642	$124,002
125 SY	36 SY	16 SY	40 SY	19 SY	18 SY	10 SY	11	275 SY

APHIS will use $20.576 million of the increase to continue addressing EAB, which affects five States (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Maryland). The entire States of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, and Michigan's Lower Peninsula are under quarantine to prevent the artificial spread of EAB, and in FY 2006 APHIS confirmed detections of the pest outside the general infestation in 24 new counties, including two in Illinois and one in southern Ohio. Because the program continues to find new EAB infestations far from the general infestation, the program plans to expand detection surveys significantly in FY 2008 and enhance regulatory efforts to prevent artificial spread of the pest, while continuing to develop new chemical and biological control tools for long-term management of EAB. After the June 2006 detection of EAB in Illinois and detections in southern Ohio and Indiana, APHIS plans to expand survey efforts to States close to those with EAB infestations. Approximately $15 million of the increase will support surveys in 11 States at risk: New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maryland, and Virginia. EAB spreads readily through the movement of host materials such as lumber, firewood, and nursery stock, and it is also difficult to detect until it is already established and causing noticeable damage. Accordingly, these detection surveys are critical to find to any new isolated infestations and begin regulatory control efforts promptly. USDA's Forest Service has estimated that if it is not contained and eradicated, EAB could cost State and local governments and landowners approximately $7 billion over the next 25 years for tree removal and replacement.

APHIS will use the remaining $5.576 million of the EAB increase to enhance its regulatory compliance, increase outreach to regulated businesses, and conduct tree removal activities. To prevent artificial spread of the pest, APHIS requires businesses and individuals that deal with regulated articles to meet risk mitigation measures or have the articles certified by the program. In December 2006, the program expanded quarantine regulations to cover all of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio (previously, only Michigan's Lower Peninsula and various townships/counties in Ohio and Indiana were quarantined). This significantly expanded quarantine will increase the number of businesses under compliance agreement from 217 to over 1,000. In FY 2007, APHIS is focusing on conducting outreach and establishing compliance agreements with affected businesses. In FY 2008, the program will increase its regulatory staff by 16 (including a staff year for administrative support) to increase the number of routine inspections of businesses under compliance agreement. The program's current eradication technique, removing all ash trees within a half mile of an infestation, is too expensive and impractical to implement widely. However, the program uses this strategy where an infestation is very small and can be eliminated, such as the isolated infestation in Prince George's County, Maryland, where tree removal activities are underway in winter 2006. The program expects that additional isolated infestations may be found, and some of the program's FY 2008 funds would support any needed tree removal activities.
With this increase, the EAB program's performance target will be to decrease the number of detections outside the generally infested area from 24 in FY 2006 to 15 or less in FY 2008. Concurrently, the program is evaluating its long-term strategy for dealing with EAB and continuing development of new control tools.

With $4.5 million of the increase, APHIS and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture will conduct regulatory, control, and national survey activities to address the newly detected PCN in Idaho. PCN is a major pest of potato crops in cool-temperate areas and is one of the most difficult potato pests to control. It also attacks other crops, including tomatoes, eggplants, chili peppers, and several flowers and weeds. PCN was detected in the United States for the first time in April 2006 during soil testing at a grading facility in Blackfoot, Idaho, and traced to a field in an area that accounts for 25 percent of Idaho's commercial potato acreage. If it is not contained and controlled, the introduction of PCN could seriously threaten the $2.9 billion U.S. potato industry, leading to both production losses and lost export markets. Several countries, including Canada, Mexico, and Japan, banned fresh Idaho potato imports immediately after the discovery of PCN. The regulatory program will include quarantining infested areas, restricting the planting of susceptible crops in quarantined areas, and requiring steam cleaning for equipment being moved out of quarantined areas. Because PCN can be spread through soil on farm machinery, cleaning the equipment is vital to preventing pest spread. APHIS will use $2.3 million of the increase for survey and regulatory activities in Idaho. These funds will allow APHIS to establish a permanent regulatory staff of 20 in Idaho consisting of plant health officers, survey technicians, identifiers, a data manager, temporary employees for the survey season, and necessary administrative support. The remaining $2.2 million will support national survey efforts ($1.1 million to be provided to potato-producing States through cooperative agreements) and related diagnostic costs ($1.1 million). These funds will allow APHIS to complete a survey of seed potato production areas for PCN, as well as continue surveys of the one million acres of commercial potato production. In addition, APHIS will work with the potato industry to include PCN testing in the existing certification structure for seed potatoes. Without the survey data to determine the extent of the pest and document pest-free areas, APHIS may not be able to keep markets open for U.S. potatoes exports, which were worth $101 million in FY 2005. Based on experience with the golden nematode in New York, APHIS estimates that PCN will require long-term management and the development of PCN-resistant potato varieties. The maintenance of the golden nematode program now requires a relatively low amount annually, but the initial investment to provide infrastructure for the program was much higher. However, through an effective regulatory and control strategy, the program has successfully confined the infestation to 6,185 acres in nine counties for more than 50 years. In addition, it has allowed producers outside of the several affected counties in New

York to ship potatoes in both interstate and international trade. APHIS estimates that the benefits of implementing a regulatory control program for the PCN will also be worth the investment.

Pursuant to the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution the amount available for the CHRP in FY 2007 was based on the FY 2006 appropriation, less no-year funding carried forward. The FY 2008 budget restores $3.851 million of the FY 2007 reduction of $6 million. This will result in a net decrease of $1.962 million for the CHRP, which represents APHIS' effort to fund the program as a 50 percent match with State of Florida.

The $3.453 million increase for *P. ramorum* will fund nursery inspections in California, Oregon, and Washington State through cooperative agreements. Of the total, approximately $2.693 million will be used in California, $450,000 will be used in Oregon, and $310,000 will be used in Washington State. *P. ramorum* affects 78 different kinds of native and exotic trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. It has dramatically altered ecosystems and the landscape along the California coast, and no chemical treatments are available to eliminate it from nursery plants. Through this program, APHIS helps protect the nation's landscape, the complex ecosystems that native oaks support, and the economic livelihood of several industries - such as forest products - from huge losses. These funds will enable APHIS to determine the extent of *P. ramorum* in nurseries in those States, take timely regulatory action to prevent further spread, and minimize or eliminate the need for emergency funds. In Calendar Year 2006, APHIS confirmed 61 positive detections of *P. ramorum* associated with nursery plants from 11 States: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Of the 61 total, 45 resulted from the Federal Order and annual cleanliness compliance surveys (22 in California, 13 in Oregon, and 10 in Washington); 7 resulted from trace-backs and trace-forwards; 6 resulted from the National Survey; and 3 were detected during truck inspections, at reported nurseries, or during site visits. When SOD/PR is found in a nursery, the program destroys the host material and inspects the facility for 2 years to ensure that it remains "clean." With this increase, APHIS projects 50 confirmed positive finds in non-quarantined areas in the environment, compared to 200 without the increase.

The $1.262 million increase for the KB program will strengthen APHIS efforts to contain this wheat disease, which presents a significant regulatory burden on the American wheat industry. As a result of a decade of dealing with KB, APHIS is trying to persuade trading partners that it is not a disease of quarantine significance but rather a grade and quality issue, which APHIS is working to solve through the regulatory process. To achieve this objective, the Agency has developed a strategic plan that focuses on communicating the correct information about this disease. Unfortunately, this is an expensive and time-consuming process. With the increase, APHIS will transfer approximately $680,000 to State cooperators to enhance national survey activities. Without the national survey, APHIS has no basis to certify U.S. wheat for export that originates from KB-free area, a requirement by 70 or more trading partners. In addition, APHIS will use $262,000 to hire 3 plant health officers to enhance regional survey and regulatory activities, $170,000 to purchase 5 vehicles, and $150,000 for office supplies and project materials. This increase will help APHIS remove KB's classification as a pest of quarantine significance. The United States is a major provider of the wheat and has export markets of $5 billion.

The $1.64 million reduction for the ALB program will still fund 50% of total program costs. State and local entities in New Jersey and New York will fund the remaining 40 percent of costs. In addition we anticipate eradication of the ALB from Illinois by FY 2008. By the end of FY 2008, APHIS expects that 167 square miles will be infested and 157 square miles regulated. This compares to 232 square miles infested and 157 square miles regulated as of December 2006.

The $1.022 million reduction for the GWSS program will still fund 47% of total program costs. State and local entities in California will fund the remaining 30 percent of costs. Despite this

reduction, APHIS expects to limit the average number of adult detections per trap to less than one for Kern County, less than 1.5 in Tulare County, and less than 10 in Ventura County. This compares to 1.11 in Kern County, 0.46 in Tulare County, and 51.98 in Ventura County at the end of FY 2006. The Ventura County figure was so high in FY 2006 because the County opposed a full, continual program due to chemical use. Treatments have been re-started, however, and we expect the figure to decrease sharply.

Also among the decreases, APHIS will discontinue $495,000 of cooperative agreements to conduct hydrilla surveys in Lake Gaston, Virginia, to determine resource needs for eradication. Local agencies will continue these activities, if necessary. In addition, APHIS will discontinue a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to fund OLFF trapping activities, saving $312,000. CDFA may fund these activities in FY 2007. Local agencies will continue these activities, if necessary.

(f) A decrease of $1,075,000 and 0 staff years for the Grasshopper program ($5,499,000 and 34 staff years available in 2007).

Grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations fluctuate widely on rangelands in the western United States. In some years grasshoppers and Mormon crickets are not a concern to ranchers and farmers; however, they can develop (sometimes over several years, sometimes more quickly) into widespread and devastating outbreaks. These outbreaks cause severe economic damage by destroying rangeland forage and threatening crops grown in areas adjacent to rangeland. The last major grasshopper outbreak was in the mid-1980s, but a dramatic Mormon cricket outbreak began in 2000 and continued in some areas through 2005.

Section 417 of the Plant Protection Act provides APHIS with the authority to control grasshoppers and Mormon crickets on rangeland to protect that rangeland. Each year the APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program conducts surveys in 17 western States, provides technical assistance on grasshopper management to land owners/managers, prepares environmental documentation, and conducts training. If funds are available and if outbreaks prompt requests for control action, APHIS will conduct treatments to reduce grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks where needed. Given the cyclic nature of grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations, and because it is currently impossible to predict the natural forces that cause these devastating grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks, the demand for treatments can vary greatly from year to year. Designating the Grasshopper and Mormon cricket funding as no-year funding would allow APHIS the flexibility to spend only those funds necessary for survey, technical assistance, environmental documentation, and training activities in years when no outbreaks are present, and to have carry-over funds available for an immediate response in those years when outbreaks do occur and widespread treatments are needed.

Additionally, in FY 2008, APHIS will need a lower appropriation for the program because carryover funding remains available from an FY 2004 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) transfer. That year, APHIS transferred $20,000,000 from the CCC to conduct control activities for Mormon crickets in Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. APHIS provided the funds to the three States in equal amounts through 4-year cooperative agreements, and a portion of these funds will remain available to the States in FY 2008.

(g) A decrease of $9,851,000 and 0 staff years for the Johne's disease program ($13,057,000 and 25 staff years available in 2007).

The FY 2008 budget reflects the voluntary nature of the Johne's disease program. Producers have shown their willingness to enroll in the program, and the momentum can continue as APHIS

collaborates more with its partners in the States and industry. At the end of FY 2006, there were 8,441 herds enrolled in the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP), surpassing the enrollment goal of 8,150 herds. Approximately 21.2 percent of cattle herds were enrolled in the VBJDCP with a test negative herd classification for Johne's. This was below the target of 30 percent, but the percentage was slightly skewed because enrollment numbers greatly surpassed our target. Forty-seven States were in full compliance with the national program standards, meeting the program's targeted goal for enrollment.

The collaborative efforts and task-sharing among Federal and State animal health workers allow us to propose a reduction in funding for the program. Under this proposal, States, universities, and producers, who are among the beneficiaries of the program, would be responsible for testing, herd clean-up, risk assessments and disease management. With this reduction in Federal funding, the States, affected industries, and producers will also assume the majority of the responsibility for continuing the national Johne's demonstration herd project implemented in each region of the country. This project focuses on new and current testing schemes and control methods to determine which are the most cost- effective and efficient management practices for the program.

APHIS will measure overall program performance by the percentage of enrolled cattle herds in the VBJDCP with a test negative herd classification for Johne's disease. In FY 2008, APHIS will continue to target 30 percent as its goal for the number of herds enrolled in the program that test negative for Johne's disease.

(h) An increase of $6,015,000 and 12 staff years for the Low Pathogen Avian Influenza program ($10,699,000 and 24 staff years available in 2007).

The national Low Pathogen Avian Influenza (LPAI) program goal is to prevent and control H5 and H7 avian influenza (AI) from entering and spreading in commercial and backyard poultry flocks and causing significant economic damage. LPAI H5 and H7 virus subtypes can mutate into highly pathogenic forms that are extremely infectious and fatal. The historic outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N2 in the northeastern United States in 1983 and 1984 resulted in destruction of more than 17 million birds at a cost of nearly $65 million ($122.18 million in 2005 dollars). The outbreak also caused retail egg prices to increase by more than 30 percent.

Over the past 10 years, there have been LPAI H7 outbreaks in Texas (2004); Maryland and Delaware (2004); Connecticut (2002); Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina (2002); and Pennsylvania (1998). Because of these outbreaks, various countries have instituted embargoes against U.S. poultry meat products. Such restrictions, when imposed, result in significant economic market losses.

Pursuant to the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution the amount available for the LPAI program in FY 2007 was based on the FY 2006 appropriation, less no-year funding carried forward. The FY 2008 budget restores the FY 2007 reduction of $3 million to allow the program to continue operating at existing levels.

In addition, APHIS will use $1.005 million to support program activities and 6 staff associated with the live bird marketing system (LBMS) efforts. By the end of FY 2006, 31 States were participating in the LBMS LPAI program. Historically, the focus of this program has been toward the Northeast, where most of the positive cases of LPAI are detected, but APHIS has been expanding its program to cover all regions of the country. Cooperative agreements supported by LBMS LPAI funds help cover field and laboratory needs for inspections, surveillance, testing, and tracebacks. With the requested increase, the Agency will establish cooperative agreements in all 38 LBMS States—including those in the Southeast, Midwest, and West.

APHIS will use $1.005 million to expand LPAI activities related to the commercial industry and the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). APHIS anticipates additional commercial broiler, layer, and turkey flocks will be joining the LPAI program in FY 2008, and they will need to meet certain testing requirements. The Agency needs to increase capacity in authorized laboratories to prepare for the increase in testing (possibly up to 2 million additional tests). APHIS will facilitate cooperative agreements with NPIP authorized laboratories to conduct the expected increased testing and support staff years involved in the NPIP LPAI program.

APHIS will use $1.005 million to support LPAI activities at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL). NVSL is the national reference laboratory for AI, and this funding will allow NVSL to develop and oversee the production of AI test reagents. NVSL will distribute reagents to State and industry laboratories approved to participate in the LPAI program. In addition to producing reagents, NVSL must do all confirmatory testing of reactor samples submitted by authorized labs. This funding will support that effort as well.

Without the additional funding, there will be only 82 percent of applicable States participating in our LBMS in FY 2008. In addition, under a new rule that is now becoming final, a certain level of LPAI surveillance will be required in all production flocks to maintain their status; before, only breeding flocks had to meet this level of surveillance. This rule will require up to 2 million more tests to be conducted annually. The Agency will not be able to support increased testing capacity at authorized NPIP laboratories in the States and the likely result is that the laboratories will receive more samples than they can possibly run, and we will not receive the quality surveillance data that we need to determine disease prevalence. The Agency will also face a serious shortage of AI testing reagents. The NVSL is responsible for producing and distributing serologic AI testing reagents to State laboratories approved to participate in the LPAI program. Without a funding increase, NVSL will not be able to provide reagents for the 3 million tests we estimate will be performed during FY 2008. This testing is the cornerstone for the LPAI surveillance program, without which our ability to provide assurance to our trading partners of our AI status will be severely impaired.

In addition to counting States enrolled in the LBMS LPAI program, APHIS will measure overall program performance by the percentage of commercial poultry industry establishments enrolled in the NPIP LPAI monitoring program. The target for FY 2008 is to have 80 percent of all commercial establishments enrolled in the program.

(i) A decrease of $760,000 and 0 staff years for the Noxious Weeds program ($1,901,000 and 2 staff years available in 2007).

The noxious weeds program conducts surveys and funds control programs with cooperators nationwide to track infestations of pest plants on the Federal Noxious Weeds List and reduce weed infestations that can damage crops, livestock, other agricultural interests, or the environment. For FY 2008, APHIS is encouraging beneficiaries to assume a larger role in projects supported through cooperative agreements. Specifically, APHIS will save $297,000 by eliminating funding for cogongrass control in Mississippi, $250,000 by eliminating funding for Nez Perce Bio-Control Center, $164,000 by reducing cooperative agreements to States and universities, and $49,000 by reducing cooperative agreements related to weed management in Nevada.

(j) A decrease of $1,851,000 and 0 staff years and a permanent redirection of $3,318,000 and 20 staff years for the Pink Bollworm program ($5,169,000 and 20 staff years available in 2007).

The Pink Bollworm (PBW) program works to eradicate this pest from cotton-growing areas of the United States and northern Mexico by 2013 in cooperation with the States, the cotton industry, and Mexico. APHIS is proposing to decrease $1.851 million from this program and shift the

remaining $3.318 million to a new Cotton Pests program, which will also include boll weevil activities. The activities performed by the new Cotton Pests program support the goal of eradicating the boll weevil and PBW - two plant pests that cause millions of dollars in control costs and losses to cotton crops annually. Because the programs to eliminate these pests are conducted in the same fields by the same personnel, formally merging resources will simplify the administration of both programs and help them continue to progress towards eradication. Funds will be redirected from both programs to consolidate eradication activities under the new line item. The PBW program is expected to declare eradication in FY 2013.

(k) An increase of $1,009,000 and 0 staff years for the Plum Pox program ($2,194,000 and 5 staff years available in 2007).

Plum pox is a virus disease of stone fruit species (peaches, plums, etc.) that first appeared in Pennsylvania in October 1999. The plum pox virus can be carried in live nursery stock, in grafts and budwood of infected plants, and is transmitted from one plant to another by the feeding of several species of aphid. Plum pox virus does not kill infected trees, but is causes yield losses to growers and reduces the marketability of fruit.

The spread of the Plum Pox Virus (PPV) disease would significantly affect the United States' $1.8 billion stone fruit industry. In addition, international trading partners refuse fruit from infected regions. There is currently no cure for PPV and the only control method is the removal of infected trees. The grower's cooperation is vital to the control and eventual eradication of this disease. Having funds available to pay claims for tree removal promptly will help APHIS continue to secure grower cooperation with the PPV eradication effort.

APHIS has previously requested emergency funds as needed rather than seek appropriated funds to cover compensation. This system has led to inefficiencies in obtaining compensation dollars. The requested increase will provide available funds when compensation needs arise. Having funds available will increase the program's efficiency by allowing the program to gain owner cooperation to remove diseased trees and reduce costs associated with containing the spread. Without a compensation program, growers may attempt to earn some profit by selling diseased products. Such fruit movement would increase the risk of the virus spreading beyond the four Pennsylvania counties within which APHIS has contained it.

(l) A decrease of $1,945,000 and 0 staff years for the Pseudorabies program ($4,347,000 and 29 staff years available in 2007).

The national goal of the pseudorabies program is to eradicate the disease from all levels of commercial swine in the United States so that it no longer poses a threat to livestock. With the successful eradication of pseudorabies in U.S. commercial production swine, the program is now targeting its biosecurity and surveillance programs on at-risk commercial swine herds that could be in contact with infected feral swine or associated transitional swine herds (those herds in potential contact with feral swine). This shift in program emphasis will allow a reduction of $1.945 million without negatively impacting overall program efforts.

(m) A net decrease of $1,283,000 and 0 staff years and a redirection of $2,651,000 for the Scrapie program and a ($18,414,000 and 79 staff years available in 2007).

When the scrapie program was established, funding increases were provided in part for indemnity, depopulation of affected animals, and due to the unpredictable need for indemnity from year to year, the program was able to use remaining funds to enhance critical operations. As a result, APHIS has been able to provide funds to States to increase genetic resistance of the national flock to scrapie through genotyping rams; increase surveillance efforts including live-animal

surveillance testing of at-risk flocks; and clean up of affected flocks. In addition, APHIS personnel have been able to increase samples collected for surveillance, address animal health information management issues, and support efforts towards licensing rapid diagnostic test kits for scrapie.

With several years of data to draw from, APHIS is now better able to gauge how much funding it uses annually for indemnity. The program requests a realignment of $3.934 million previously identified for indemnities; of that amount, $2.651 million would be used to continue supporting the critical operations listed above and the remainder ($1.283 million) would be reduced from the scrapie budget. Following the realignment and reduction, $1.5 million will remain for indemnities. The proposed shift in funding will allow APHIS to support critical operations in the field and avoid to setting aside a substantial amount solely for indemnities that are unlikely to be needed.

APHIS will measure overall program performance by the percent of black-faced sheep sampled at slaughter that test positive. Black-faced sheep are more often affected by scrapie than white-faced sheep. By measuring the percentage of black-faced sheep that test positive over time, APHIS is able to determine the increase or decrease of disease prevalence in a cost-effective manner. In FY 2006, approximately 0.45 percent of all black-faced sheep sampled tested positive for scrapie. At the proposed funding level, APHIS anticipates fewer than 0.35 percent of all black-faced sheep sampled will test positive in FY 2008.

(n) An increase of $1,840,000 and 15 staff years for the Tuberculosis program ($14,851,000 and 49 staff years available in 2007).

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) caused more losses among U.S. farm animals in the early part of the last century than all other infectious diseases combined. A program to eradicate the disease from the United States began in 1917. Although the Nation has made great strides in decreasing the overall prevalence of TB and most States are Accredited-Free, a few cases of the disease continue to be detected year after year. The level of surveillance must be increased so that the cases remaining may be detected as quickly as possible. By rapidly detecting new cases, APHIS and its cooperators will be able to reduce the spread of the disease and eliminate it, so that all States may be Accredited-Free. Left unchecked, TB would cause an estimated $2.5 billion in losses annually.

APHIS' ultimate goal is to eradicate TB from the United States, making it crucial to detect TB in cattle and bison. The requested increase would enable APHIS to test 10,000 sample lesions and provide more successful tracebacks of at-risk animals through disease epidemiology in FY 2008. This will ensure that we detect new incidences of TB more quickly and eliminate them before they spread and cause significant economic damage.

By increasing the level of active surveillance, APHIS expects to find more positive cases of TB than in previous years. Although finding more of these positive cases will cause certain States to lose their Accredited-Free status, it is necessary in order to achieve the goal of complete Accredited-Free status in at least 47 States and territories.

To help increase both TB surveillance and testing, APHIS plans to use $1.84 million to support, ten animal health technicians at the major cattle slaughter plants, a pathologist, a biologist, and three support personnel. To fully equip these employees, APHIS will spend $300,000 for vehicles, equipment, and laboratory materials; $75,000 for employee travel and training; and $144,000 for transporting surveillance samples to laboratories for histopathology, microbiology, and gamma interferon testing.

The planned use of this funding follows guidelines established in the 2006 Progressive Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Strategic Plan. Each of the above described benefits correlates with APHIS performance measures for the TB Eradication Program. As of December 2006, there were 49 States and territories with TB Accredited-Free status. If the United States is able to maintain that number through the next 12 months, APHIS will exceed its current 2007 goal, and the FY 2008 goal will be amended accordingly.

Based upon the projected industry loss of $240 million per year for the loss of TB free status in Texas and Missouri, and based upon a $1.84 million investment in the TB program, APHIS projects that for each incremental dollar spent on improving the program, prevention of industry losses of $140.00 will be realized.

(o) A net decrease of $1,684,000 and an increase of 19 staff years, including a redirection of $5,444,000, for the Wildlife Services Operations program ($77,148,000 and 530 staff years available in 2007).

APHIS protects U.S. agriculture, natural resources, property, and human safety and health from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases. This links to the Agency's Strategic goal to manage issues related to the health of U.S. animal and plant resources and conflicts with wildlife. Within the change in program funding, the Agency is requesting additional funds for high priority needs: $5.016 million for wildlife monitoring and surveillance for homeland security, as part of the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative, and $2 million for the oral rabies vaccination program. Accommodating these critical needs within available Agency resources requires a reallocation of $8.7 million from other activities.

In conjunction with the increase request under the Wildlife Disease Monitoring and Surveillance program, the Agency will further support the Food and Agricultural Defense Initiative. This expanded infrastructure will monitor and gather data on the disease status of free-ranging animals at the State level and integrate this data with existing agricultural animal health monitoring systems. APHIS will use this information to detect and respond to disease outbreaks in wildlife populations and mitigate the risk of wildlife diseases transmitted to farmed livestock. The system will monitor losses to the livestock industry attributed to diseases found in wildlife, such as bovine tuberculosis, pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, West Nile virus, and chronic wasting disease. Through this system, the Agency will also have the capability to detect diseases affecting wildlife that originate offshore. APHIS will use the additional $5.016 million to support 12 wildlife disease specialists and 3 support positions to monitor diseases in wildlife populations, and will purchase equipment, provide training, and conduct lab diagnostics and computer modeling. Wildlife rabies poses significant risks to livestock, humans and their pets, as well as wildlife. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the cost of living with rabies in America is high and growing, exceeding $300 million per year. Although rabies vaccinations have been available for domestic animals for many years, until recently no such preventive measure existed to control rabies in wildlife. Furthermore, CDC reports that wildlife currently account for greater than 90 percent of reported cases of rabies in the United States. Therefore, the Agency's increased efforts to control and eliminate wildlife rabies will lessen the cost of living with rabies.

Currently, APHIS cooperates with 16 States in oral rabies vaccination (ORV) programs. There are 15 States distributing oral vaccines for raccoons, while Texas distributes vaccine baits for gray fox and coyote. As the raccoon, gray fox, or coyote eats through the outer bait (usually made of fishmeal or dog food), the inner sachet gets punctured allowing vaccine to enter the animal's mouth and coat the lymphatic tissue in the throat. The Agency distributes baits by airplanes in rural areas and by hand in urban and suburban areas.

With a $2 million increase, APHIS will bolster and expand the ORV zones by increasing bait distribution by ten percent. This effort will help eliminate rabies in gray foxes and raccoons. The Agency will also conduct field trials for new oral vaccine and baits and improve real-time tetracycline analysis to measure bait uptake, allowing the program to make optimal adjustments in the ORV zones to achieve long-term success. To conduct these activities, the Agency will use $325,000 to hire and equip 2 wildlife biologists and 2 wildlife technicians and $1.675 million to purchase and distribute rabies vaccinations. The Agency will be able to increase bait-vaccine delivery to bolster and expand ORV zones toward elimination and enhance surveillance, including border areas. By 2010, the Agency estimates that the increase will allow us to prevent all breaks of canine rabies in the barrier along the Texas-Mexico border and reduce breaks to two or fewer of gray fox and raccoon rabies in the current barrier zone.

Without the increase, APHIS' investment in this goal to reduce the impact of wildlife rabies will be at risk. The Agency's response to new outbreaks will be delayed due to the lack of real time data, which will allow outbreaks to spread beyond control, forcing the Agency into emergency response mode and impeding progress toward elimination of wildlife rabies.

APHIS' mission for safeguarding American agriculture and human health and safety rests upon the ability to curtail the transmission of wildlife animal diseases to domestic livestock and humans. The World Organization for Animal Health encourages all countries to develop wildlife surveillance systems to improve understanding of the epidemiology of infectious animal and zoonotic diseases, such as bovine tuberculosis. A U.S. wildlife surveillance system will provide substantial benefits to the American livestock and poultry industry, which exports total approximately $12 billion annually, by protecting that industry from losses due to pests and diseases spread from free-ranging animals.

APHIS' Wildlife Services Operations program uses a combination of Federal and cooperative funding to prevent and reduce wildlife damage primarily to agricultural and natural resources as well as to human health and safety. With the proposed increase above, the Agency plans to reduce $8.7 million in other wildlife damage management programs respond to higher priorities. APHIS will work with cooperators to determine the most cost effective way of implementing this reduction while minimizing the impact to its cooperators.

(5) An increase of $3,340,000 and 21 staff years for Animal Care activities:

Program Assessment Rating Tool: APHIS assessed the Animal Welfare programs and received a rating of Adequate with a score of 64 percent during the Fiscal Year 2005 budget cycle. Specific PART findings included: (1) the program has a clearly defined purpose; (2) there is a need for more independent evaluations; and (3) the program has made improvements in performance measures. APHIS considered the PART findings in the Agency's budget proposal, as well as the substantial growth in the number of licensees and registrants and the impact on APHIS' ability to meet performance targets.

(a) An increase of $3,340,000 and 21 staff years for the Animal Welfare program ($17,303,000 and 183 staff years available in 2007).

APHIS' Animal Welfare program carries out activities designed to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals. These activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for biomedical research, sold as pets at the wholesale level, transported in commerce, or used for exhibition purposes. Program personnel inspect licensees to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The program places primary emphasis on the

inspection of facilities and records management, investigation of complaints, re-inspection of problem facilities, voluntary compliance through education, and training of inspectors. To counter the problem of dwindling resources and rising costs, the program requests a total of $3.34 million and 21 staff years to respond to increased workload demands, as well as to begin the process of regulating an estimated 10,000 new facilities that contain rats, mice, or birds not involved in research.

APHIS requests $1.664 million and 12 staff years to address increased program workload demands. For the past several years, the effectiveness of the program and, consequently, the ability to meet performance goals, has become increasingly strained due to a rapid growth in the number of new licensees and registrants. For example, in the Western States the number of licensed/registered facilities is projected to climb to 6,700 by the end of FY 2006, a nearly 50-percent increase from the 4,591 licensed/registered facilities at the end of FY 2003. The number of inspectors in the Western region has increased approximately 6 percent from 52 at the end of FY 2003 to 55 at present. In FY 2006 alone, the Western region experienced a growth rate of approximately 80 facilities per month. Likewise, the Eastern region experienced growth of approximately 50 facilities per month. In the Western Region, the program projects that it will conduct between 10,000 and 11,000 inspections this year, compared to 8,208 inspections in FY 2003. To manage the unrelenting growth in inspectional workload, the program will hire two field Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs), two Supervisory Animal Care Specialists, and five Animal Care Inspectors. Because of the increasing demands placed on management as the program continues to grow and broaden its authorities, APHIS proposes to hire an Associate Deputy Administrator at Headquarters and two Assistant Regional Directors – one in each region – to enable the program to continue to provide critical program direction and support in a timely and effective manner.

APHIS also requests $1.676 million and 9 staff years to begin regulating an estimated 10,000 new facilities that contain rats, mice, or birds not involved in research. This is based on a settlement agreement negotiated by the Department of Justice in response to a lawsuit seeking to extend AWA coverage to rats, mice, and birds, and subsequent amendment included in the 2002 Farm Bill stipulating that research facilities involving rats, mice, or birds are to be exempt from regulation. Because most rats and mice are bred for research, we anticipate that most of the new facilities covered under the AWA requirements will be pet bird breeders and dealers. With inspector workloads already stretched, the program will need to hire nine additional personnel to begin implementing the new responsibilities. The personnel will consist of an avian specialist, two VMO inspectors; five Animal Care inspectors; and one Administrative Support Technician.

APHIS will recruit and equip the necessary personnel, train the new inspectors, conduct pre-licensing inspections, work to determine the number of newly covered facilities in voluntary compliance with the AWA, and initiate activities designed to assure a high level of voluntary compliance with the new requirements. APHIS estimates that each new inspector will be able to manage an average of 60-75 cases the first year as they receive training, which would then increase to 100-120 cases the second year until full performance is attained in the third year.

The proposed increase would enable APHIS to adequately support its mission of ensuring that all regulated facilities comply with the law and address the current rate of growth by hiring personnel to reduce the number of facilities to a manageable level. This would allow the program to maintain the current target rate of 68 percent of facilities in complete compliance at the most recent inspection despite the fact that a number of the newest facilities are somewhat unfamiliar with the AWA regulations and can require an initial learning period to become fully compliant.

Without additional funding, the program will be able to adequately support its mission of ensuring that all regulated facilities comply with the law; would not be able to address the current rate of

growth in workload; and could not fully support other program activities such as information sharing, training and work conferences, enhancing information technology (i.e., inspection based reporting database and mandatory web migration for forms), and upgrading field and office technology capabilities. The ultimate result will be the program's inability to meet performance targets of increased percentage of facilities in compliance and decreased number of animals affected by non-compliance.

(6) An increase of $22,020,000 and 50 staff years for Scientific and Technical Services activities:

Program Assessment Rating Tool: Scientific and Technical Services programs are including in the PART for Plant and Animal Health Monitoring programs which received an Effective rating with a score of 87 percent during the Fiscal Year 2005 budget cycle. The PART recommended the programs develop efficiency measures. Accordingly, APHIS has developed two efficiency measure; the time required for reporting of sample results, and the average cost of each surveillance activity. APHIS has begun collecting the data needed to calculate efficiency.

(a) An increase of $1,500,000 and 0 staff years for the Biosecurity program ($1,952,000 and 0 staff years available in 2007).

APHIS is requesting an increase of $1.5 million to enhance its Offshore Pest Information Program (OPIP). OPIP's mission is to collect and assess information about pests and diseases in other countries systematically so that APHIS can take action against those likely to reach the United States and prepare for those that pose imminent threats. This program plans to achieve this goal by using open source information collection software/services, collection and reporting relevant information by overseas personnel, data analysis by APHIS experts, and dissemination of relevant information to APHIS personnel and the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agricultural Specialists. APHIS began this program as a pilot project based on recommendations from the Plant and Animal Health Safeguarding Review conducted by the National Plant Board and National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. This increase will allow APHIS to establish the OPIP program on a permanent basis and strategically expand its activities.

The pest and disease information gathered through the OPIP pilot initiative has resulted in changes to port of entry inspection protocols and domestic survey priorities and enhanced resources for pest and disease risk assessments. Some of the information is significant enough to prompt changes to APHIS import regulations. Several OPIP reports have highlighted the presence and geographic movement in foreign countries of various pests (including potato cyst nematode in Europe and citrus and legume pests in the Caribbean) that could threaten U.S. agriculture. APHIS has used relevant pest information from the Offshore Pest Information System (OPIS) to advise U.S. ports of entry and plant inspection stations to increase vigilance while inspecting fruits and vegetables, cut flowers and greenery, and plants imported from countries where invasive pests occur. The Agency has also used this information to update pest risk assessments for import analysis and operational manuals used by CBP and APHIS officials at ports of entry by listing changes to inspection and other entry procedures. Additionally, APHIS has used the information to prohibit certain products from specific countries on an emergency basis.

The requested funds will: 1) support officials at strategic locations overseas to coordinate pest information collection, thereby increasing the number of trained reporters gathering and submitting relevant pest information, and increasing the number of countries for which this coverage can be provided; 2) allow APHIS to dedicate officials and other resources in the United States to analyze pest information received in OPIS reports; and 3) allow the program to design and deliver specialized training to foreign service officers and foreign service nationals to ensure these officials are monitoring and gathering information on those pests and diseases of the highest

risk to the United States. With the increase, APHIS will be able to collect and analyze information from at least 120 countries per year on an ongoing basis. Without the increase, APHIS may not be able to continue supporting the pilot effort, which will hamper the Agency's ability to identify incipient pest and disease outbreaks in other countries early enough to prevent them from reaching U.S. ports of entry. Potential costs could reach millions of dollars depending on the quarantine significance of the plant or animal pest or disease involved the level of pest/disease infestation, and any resulting export market/trade losses.

(b) An increase of $3,455,000 and 13 staff years for the Biotechnology Regulatory Services program ($10,468,000 and 70 staff years available in 2007.)

APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) program protects America's agriculture and environment using a dynamic and science-based regulatory framework that allows for the safe development and use of genetically engineered organisms. Since its establishment in August 2002, the BRS program has responded to this evolution by reviewing and strengthening its regulations to keep pace with new trends in biotechnology. This includes strengthening permit conditions for the field testing of plants genetically engineered to produce pharmaceutical and industrial compounds, and taking the first steps towards revising plant regulations and preparing the related programmatic environmental impact statement.

APHIS requests an increase of $3.455 million in FY 2008 to enhance the Agency's approach to global agricultural biotechnology including monitoring the international front for emerging biotechnology products for importation into the United States and enhancing international regulatory capacity building activities. On the domestic front, BRS proposes to enhance risk assessment capabilities; enhance compliance and inspection activities including exploring emerging technologies such as geographic information systems; address scientific issues and continue to incorporate the latest science into the regulatory framework; and enhance its transgenic animal program.

As part of the overall request, the program is requesting an increase of $125,000 to monitor and respond to the emergence of agricultural biotechnology products throughout the world by conducting proactive risk assessments to determine the risk of importing products into the United States. While risk assessments are tied to specific applications under the current program, proposed revisions to the Agency's biotechnology regulations will allow BRS to initiate risk assessments based on anticipated requests. APHIS expects the development of these risk assessments to promote our leadership in advancing science-based approaches to risk assessments, and to encourage reciprocal actions from key international trading partners. The additional funds will enable APHIS to complete 15 environmental documents (risk assessments, environmental assessments, and other environmental documents) in FY 2008, an increase of 25 percent from FY 2005.

APHIS is committed to improving the regulatory capacity of developing countries around the world. For this reason, APHIS requests $716,000 to respond to the growing number of biotechnology regulatory capacity building requests received from developing countries. Developing countries often lack transparent, science-based regulations and credible risk analysis procedures for regulating and assessing foods produced through genetic engineering methods. By fostering the safe development of agricultural biotechnology products in developing countries, APHIS will promote increased public confidence in biotechnologically-derived agricultural foods and food products worldwide, including those produced in the United States. By working to improve the regulatory capacity of developing countries around the world, APHIS can reasonably expect trading partners to use sound science in their regulatory decisions regarding our products. APHIS will also expect products imported from these countries to be safe. The requested funds

would enable APHIS to provide biotechnology building capacity assistance to 9 countries in FY 2008 and 2009.

Enhancing our approach to global agricultural biotechnology is expected to lead to increased confidence in our regulatory system by trading partners, stakeholders, and the public; expansion of markets for U.S. agricultural biotechnology products overseas; and increased program efficiencies. Without this new approach, the market for our goods overseas may be impacted and developing nations may look to other countries for guidance in developing regulatory frameworks. In doing so, these countries may be driven to more precautionary or restrictive regulatory systems similar to those seen in the European Union.

In addition to enhancements on the global front, APHIS will use $2.614 million for strategic enhancements to domestic BRS program activities. A portion of the funds would be used to enhance the BRS infrastructure to handle the increasing number and complexity of applications. Permit activity has increased dramatically in recent years, from 184 permits issued in 2004 to 590 permits issued in 2005, a growth of more than 220 percent. Specifically, BRS will hire risk assessors and permit specialists to conduct permit reviews, risk assessments, and biological assessments. The additional funds will allow APHIS to acknowledge and issue 1,820 permits/notifications in FY 2008, an increase of 249 permits (16 percent) from FY 2005. The funds will also permit the Agency to conduct additional inspections of sites under permit in FY 2008. Without the additional funds, serious backlogs will be unavoidable with adverse consequences to producers in this important and growing segment of our nation's agriculture.

In addition, APHIS proposes to work with collaborators in the scientific community to tackle challenging issues such as weediness and invasiveness; approaches to risk assessment for plants, trees, and perennials; feral animals; animals as vectors of disease; and animal confinement. Specifically, the Agency proposes to cooperatively fund several grants with the scientific community to evaluate issues such as those identified above. These will be carried out under the auspices of BRS' Office of Science, whose role is to facilitate discussions between APHIS and the research community to assure that regulatory activities are solidly grounded in science; conduct peer reviews of decisions and policies, and advance the development of a science basis for regulatory consensus in international forums. The program will fund three studies through the Office of Science in FY 2008, at an average estimated cost of $100,000 per study. APHIS will also continue to incorporate the latest science and scientific research into its regulatory framework. This will include enhancing existing scientific expertise by building upon the organization's infrastructure; developing scientific personnel exchange programs with academia and industry; conducting peer reviews for significant scientific components of biotechnology policies and regulations; and conducting quantitative analyses and studies to support regulatory decisions.

Lastly, APHIS will enhance its newly created transgenic animal program. Specifically, funds will be used to hire additional scientists and technical support staff including biotechnologists, veterinary medical officers, disease agent specialists and entomologists to develop and implement regulations and guidelines regarding transgenic animals and disease agents; advise on policy related to animal and disease agent biotechnology; and provide leadership in advancing the Agency's use of biotechnology oversight to protest and enhance American agriculture. In recent years, scientists have applied genetic engineering to a host of animals traditionally used as food sources, including cows, pigs, and fish, for a wide variety of purposes. Examples of this technology include modifying animals and arthropods to minimize their destructive effects on agricultural production, modifying animals kept as pets to enhance or suppress certain traits, and modifying animals (enhancing traits for faster growth, disease resistance, and increased production) for human consumption.

The program will measure success through a variety of methods including meeting with stakeholders and others to obtain valuable feedback on program activities; developing and distributing stakeholder satisfaction surveys; conducting peer reviews of regulatory decision documents; and monitoring a series of performance measures each fiscal year. For example, APHIS held a series of stakeholder meetings in the past year to solicit feedback on our proposed revisions to the biotechnology regulations. In addition, BRS recently entered into a cooperative effort with the National Plant Board to solicit feedback from the States on our regulatory system. APHIS will monitor performance measures including the field site compliance rate; number of sites inspected, number of permits issued; number of risk assessments and other environmental documents (both self-initiated and application-driven); number of countries receiving capacity building technical assistance; number of WTO notifications reviewed; number of scientific study grants awarded; and number of countries adopting our regulatory framework.

(c) An increase of $3,204,000 and 8 staff years for the Plant Methods Development Laboratories program ($8,450,000 and 108 staff years available in 2007).

The Plant Methods Development Laboratories support APHIS' plant health programs by providing and/or validating advanced scientific and technological tools to detect, diagnose, and control plant pests and diseases. These activities support APHIS' abilities to prepare for and respond to emergencies and to conduct ongoing high-priority programs. APHIS is requesting increases for two initiatives in FY 2008: $2.135 million to support the development of detection and control tools to contain and eradicate the emerald ash borer (EAB), and $1.069 million to enhance emergency preparedness through a Crop Biosecurity Program

EAB is an exotic, wood-boring beetle that attacks and kills healthy ash trees. It has killed an estimated 20 million ash trees in the United States since it was detected in 2002. USDA's Forest Service has estimated that if it is not contained and eradicated, EAB could cost State and local governments and landowners approximately $7 billion over the next 25 years for tree removal and replacement. APHIS has cooperated with affected States since 2002, but the program has been seriously limited by a lack of effective and affordable detection and control tools. Current survey tools may be as little as 15 percent effective in detecting new infestations, meaning that EAB populations reproduce and expand before our survey methods can detect them. In addition, the only control tool currently available (removing all ash trees within a half-mile radius of a positive site) is cost-prohibitive and impractical to implement over wide areas. Accordingly, APHIS must have new detection and control methods to prevent this pest from becoming established over a large area of the country. The requested funding would allow APHIS to continue developing a trap and lure, which would enable the program to delimit the leading edge of the EAB infestation and find isolated infestations quicker. APHIS and cooperating scientists have already made progress in identifying the chemical signals that these pests use to locate each other and ash trees, which will be used to help produce a chemical lure for a trap. They have also identified several promising chemical treatments and biological control agents that may allow the program to control EAB without extensive tree removal. The requested funds would allow APHIS to field-test these treatments and develop effective protocols for implementing them into the program. With this increase, APHIS believes it will be able to field test two chemical treatments and one biological control organism in FY 2008 and implement them by FY 2009. Without this increase, APHIS will not have the tools necessary to protect U.S. forests from EAB or prevent enormous losses to urban areas. EAB kills infested trees within several years, and the trees become brittle and prone to falling. They must be removed because of the public safety hazards they present.

APHIS is also proposing to establish a Crop Biosecurity Program to coordinate its technical and scientific needs for detecting and responding to high-consequence plant pests and diseases, including the urgent need to expand diagnostic capacity for these pests and diseases. As part of this effort, the program will certify State and university laboratories to conduct tests for high-risk

diseases like sudden oak death (SOD), soybean rust, plum pox virus, potato cyst nematode, and *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 biovar 2 (Rsr3b2), any of which could generate large volumes of samples and overwhelm our testing capacity. The accreditation process involves several steps, including the development of a set of test samples that produce reliable results when tested correctly, proficiency testing for each applicant laboratory, and a quality assurance program for ongoing monitoring of the laboratory's performance. The program will start with SOD and Rsr3B2 and work with the Pest Detection program to set priorities for additional diseases. In addition, it will establish laboratory training program for Federal, State, and university plant health diagnostic laboratory diagnosticians. One of the new staff years will support risk analysis capabilities, six will work on the accreditation and certification process, and one will provide administrative support. APHIS' FY 2008 performance target for the Crop Biosecurity Program will be to develop an accreditation program that allows State and National Plant Diagnostic Network Laboratories to conduct APHIS-validated diagnostic tests and then certify two laboratories to conduct a specific test (e.g. the polymerase chain reaction test for SOD). After the accreditation and certification processes are established, the number of laboratories certified will increase significantly. Our targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 are 8 and 10 laboratories (respectively) certified to conduct specific tests. Without this increase to establish the program and implement a laboratory accreditation program, APHIS may not be prepared for outbreaks of high-consequence plant pests or pathogens. The consequences include both losses to agricultural producers and the potential for delays in regulatory decision-making and the subsequent spread of these pathogens.

(d) An increase of $3,878,000 and 20 staff years for the Veterinary Biologics program ($15,491,000 and 180 staff years available in 2007).

APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) regulates veterinary biological products (vaccines, bacterins, antisera, diagnostic test kits, and analogous products) available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases to ensure that these products are pure, safe, potent and effective. The Center accomplishes its mission through the thorough evaluation of pre-licensing dossiers, testing of products submitted for licensure, facility and product inspections, investigations of non-compliance, and post-marketing surveillance. This comprehensive regulatory approach is the most efficient and effective way to ensure only quality Federally-licensed veterinary biological products are available to U.S. consumers.

In addition to carrying continuously high workload levels of core activities, this funding will enable the CVB to effectively respond to rapidly changing non-traditional technologies such as plant based vaccines, nanotechnologies, cancer immunotherapeutics in which cancer vaccines target prevention of metastases or recurrence of disease, and new technologies in adjuvants and carriers that are included as components of veterinary vaccines that have the potential to dramatically improve the efficacy and safety of products. These technologies have the potential to dramatically impact the animal health industry. For example, use of plant based vaccines would eliminate the possibility of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy transmission to livestock through vaccination because contamination of the product could not occur.

The number of veterinary biologics submitted to CVB for review continues to increase, as does the complexity due to the increased use of technological advancements. An increase of $3.215 million would allow the program to hire and train 17 employees with a goal of anticipating new technologies on the horizon and decreasing the time required for a product to be licensed for market. The additional funding would also enhance the ability to address the extra monitoring of product performance in the field and the modified inspection processes that go hand-in-hand with the development of new technologies without adversely impacting the current timely and high-quality service to veterinary biologics stakeholders.

APHIS is requesting an increase of $413,000 and 3 staff years to address containment requirements and meet the required standards related to the use of select agents and toxins by the CVB. Without additional funding, the Agency may not be in full compliance. In June 2002, the President signed into law the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act and the related Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. These Acts require entities that possess, use or transfer select biological agents and toxins identified as a severe threat to animal and plant health register with the appropriate Federal authority, either APHIS or the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As mandated by these Acts, APHIS and the CDC publish regulations in the *Federal Register* to establish standards and procedures governing the possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins. The CVB is one of the entities that stores, uses and transfers select agents in its regulatory operations.

The CVB is also expanding activities in pharmacovigilance, the post-marketing monitoring of adverse events associated with the use of licensed veterinary biological products. Post-marketing surveillance provides an essential source of information regarding the performance of products under normal conditions of use, and is the only method to detect and characterize rare, unusual, or emerging adverse events occurring after product licensure. Pharmacovigilance is a valuable reference that allows validation of CVB regulatory processes. The CVB is working closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to share resources, data collection methods, and review processes for adverse events reports. Continued sharing of information will be accomplished through implementation of a standard data system at the CVB. This data system has already been implemented at the FDA to monitor adverse event reports for veterinary pharmaceutical products. APHIS is requesting an increase of $250,000 to purchase and implement this same system for veterinary biological products.

(e) A net increase of $9,636,000 and 3 staff years for the Veterinary Diagnostics program ($22,661,000 and 267 staff years available in 2007).

As administrator for the Nation's premier animal health diagnostic laboratory, APHIS' Veterinary Diagnostics program provides critical services to the animal industry and helps protect the Nation's food supply against acts of bioterrorism. The program requests $2.994 million to increase services for foreign animal diseases (FADs) in direct support of agricultural defense and homeland security. This will enable APHIS to expand its diagnostics capability to include such FADs as African Swine Fever, Rift Valley Fever, and Classical Swine Fever. These capabilities support the National Animal Heath Laboratory Network (NAHLN), and taken together, these programs will enhance APHIS' ability to detect emergent, foreign, and bioterrorism agents. The increase will also enable APHIS to acquire all goods required for reagent production, storage, and diagnostic services.

The program requests a net increase of $2.588 million to expand activities of the NAHLN. The NVSL established the NAHLN to address significant emergent biological and chemical threats, including FADs and bioterrorism, to animal agriculture and our national food supply. Offsetting part of this increase is a redirection of $371,000 from the Agricultural Biosecurity Center in Kansas. Through the NAHLN, APHIS is establishing unprecedented proactive emergency avoidance as well as preparedness capabilities. This amount would provide for information technology systems maintenance and support, reagent production, and for diagnostic testing supplies. Without the requested increase, APHIS will not be able to actively support the laboratories in the 47 states that are currently participating in the NAHLN, thereby decreasing NAHLN capability and capacity to quickly respond to an animal health emergency.

In June 2002, the President signed into law the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002. The Act requires that entities, such as private, State, and Federal research laboratories, universities, and vaccine companies, and individuals that possess, use or transfer select biological

agents identified as a severe threat to animal and plant health register with the appropriate Federal authority, either APHIS or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Entities that deal with biological agents or toxins identified as a severe threat to animal and plant health are required to register with APHIS. As mandated by the Act, APHIS and CDC published regulations to establish standards and procedures governing the possession, use, and transfer of the select agents. The Veterinary Diagnostics program stores and uses select agents in its operation. APHIS is requesting an increase of $525,000 and one staff year to address security requirements and meet the standards related to the select agents used in this program.

APHIS requests an increase of $300,000 and two staff years for NVSL's laboratory accreditation. In order to be internationally recognized as a leader in animal health, NVSL must achieve ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for selected areas/testing methods. Additionally, NVSL has an obligation to assume a leadership role in setting standards as well as supporting and implementing appropriate quality assurance improvement programs in order to effectively lead and coordinate the NAHLN and related surveillance and emergency response efforts. Accreditation may be mandated for future international movement of animals and animal products. NVSL must have internationally recognized third party accreditation to remain credible to our trading partners.

APHIS requests an additional $3.6 million for capital equipment needs related to the relocation to the new National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) facilities, developed as part of the Ames Modernization project. This request includes APHIS' portion of shared capital equipment needs for combined support services with the Agriculture Research Services' National Animal Disease Center and includes equipment needs identified for both the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) and NVSL. The CVB program implements the provisions of the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act to ensure that pure, safe, potent and effective veterinary biologics are available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases. The CVB laboratory is the national laboratory for the evaluation of biological products. The CVB sets the standards nationally for veterinary biological product testing as well as providing testing of reagents both domestically and internationally. The equipment will allow APHIS to implement improvements while continuing to effectively carry out program responsibilities.

Without the requested funding to appropriately equip the new facility, APHIS will lack the resources needed to maintain its recognition as a national and international reference laboratory and to meet the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) quality assurance requirements for accreditation. Accreditation requires that all relevant equipment be calibrated. Much of the current capital equipment will not meet that requirement due to the age and the nature of the equipment, jeopardizing accreditation. In addition, NVSL and CVB may not have the capacity to respond effectively to a major outbreak situation if core equipment is not in place. The success of all of APHIS' animal health programs weighs heavily upon the availability of resources for diagnostic testing services and vaccine availability. Without this funding, APHIS would not be able to meet customer needs and expectations and adequately support other program activities.

(f) A net increase of $309,000 and 6 staff years including a redirection of $2,891,000 for the Wildlife Services Methods Development program ($17,216,000 and 162 staff years available in 2007).

The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) serves as the research arm of APHIS' Wildlife Services by providing scientific information for the development and implementation of effective, practical, and socially-acceptable methods for wildlife damage management. This helps ensure that high-quality technical and scientific information on wildlife damage management is available for the protection of crops, livestock, natural resources, property, and public health and safety. APHIS proposes no changes to the total funding level for Wildlife Services Methods Development activities; however, the Agency is proposing activity changes that include an increase of

$3,200,000 for methods development for avian influenza (AI) and to assess the risk that feral swine pose in the generation of domestic animal and human virulent subtypes of avian influenza.

AI is a high consequence pathogen to poultry. Local and regional outbreaks can result in tens of millions of dollars in economic damage via culling, remediation, trade restrictions, and general loss of economic opportunities. Moreover, some subtypes of AI are human pathogens that can cause human epidemics and pandemics. The additional funding will be used to hire 8 scientists and support staff to conduct avian influenza methods development research for improving environmental sample diagnostics. We will also characterize and evaluate the risk that feral swine pose in the generation and maintenance of avian influenza subtypes of domestic animal and human health concern and support expanded use and operations of Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facilities at the NWRC. This additional effort is necessary to conduct avian influenza methods development and research diagnostic operations.

APHIS will improve and develop methods to determine the environmental stability of AI in contaminated waters and soils. Persistence of AI in the environment is a possible key risk factor in transmission from wild waterfowl to farm operations and a possible key risk factor of transmission to feral swine. Affordable, accurate, and efficient environmental assessments for AI environmental contamination do not exist. APHIS will determine the role feral swine have in generating new human virulent AI subtypes after exposure to waterfowl AI subtypes. Opportunities for co-infection of hosts with human and avian influenzas may occur when compatible hosts (i.e., feral swine) come in contact with the natural reservoir (i.e., waterfowl). Such co-infections can lead to generation of human virulent AI reassortants.

Failure to fund the program will lead to an increase in wildlife disease risk and missed opportunities for risk prevention management. The benefit of identifying the risks of contaminated soils and waters, and of the consequences of interaction of feral swine and waterfowl will lead to management recommendations to suppress or prevent transmission of subtypes of AI from wildlife or feral swine to poultry or humans. The program's goal is to develop quick and simple environmental assessments of AI contamination and determine the risk paths for generation of agricultural and human virulent subtypes of AI.

To fund this high priority activity within existing resources, the Agency will reduce funding $2,891,000 and 2 staff years for activities at the Logan, Utah Predator Research Field Station; the Starkville, Mississippi Research Field Station; the Jack Berryman Institute at Utah State University and Mississippi State University; and the Kingsville, Texas Research Field Station.

(7) An increase of $6,025,000 and 0 staff years for Management activities:

(a) An increase of $523,000 and 0 staff years for the APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure program ($4,506,000 and 0 staff years available in 2007).

The APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure (AITI) program ultimately protects the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources by providing a robust, stable, and secure information infrastructure which is essential to the mission critical applications and the day-to-day business of APHIS.

The Agency is currently working to expand electronic government (eGov); improve sharing of information across the Agency; adapt and expand the use of field/mission based technologies; and, improve coordination and accessibility of information, processes, and resources available to assist APHIS programs in the event of a pest or disease emergency. The AITI program is the key technology means for providing e-mail, office automation, Internet/Intranet access, and the platform that supports APHIS mission critical programs and administrative applications. As the

Agency grows, so too must the capacity for general support systems (e.g., mail and Internet access) increase to accommodate the growing numbers of employees and contractors hired to carry out the strategic objectives. Continued modernization of the IT infrastructure will include network capacity planning and management, implementation of eGov initiatives, and cyber security compliance and management.

APHIS requests an increase of $523,000 to: provide support and monitoring for mission-critical IT services outside of normal business hours in Raleigh, North Carolina, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and key field sites; recertify and accredit the five general support systems; and, continue to upgrade and enhance key resources that support program applications. APHIS is currently monitoring approximately 175 devices in Headquarters facilities and the Fort Collins data center at an annual cost of $200,000. Full implementation of the support services outside of the normal business hours (to include Raleigh, Minneapolis and other key sites) would cover an additional 500 devices at an estimated annual cost of $450,000. There is a recurring support cost for each device that varies by the complexity of the device. For example, a router (which is the key connection point for an entire data center) has a higher associated support cost than a server that only supports a handful of users. The router also has a much higher failure cost associated with it because the failure of router can disrupt service for multiple other systems and thousands of users even if the other devices are still operational.

The additional funding will also support the recertification of APHIS' five general support systems (GSS) at a cost of $25,000 per system. As mandated by the Department, each system is required to be certified and accredited (C&A) every three years to ensure that AITI continues to upgrade the security of the infrastructure through the C&A process; make improvements to networks scanning; and, corrects network vulnerabilities in a timely fashion. AITI implementation of more robust firewalls and a Virtual Private Network will provide remote business users a more secure method of accessing enabling technologies.

In addition, APHIS will continue to upgrade and enhance key resources that will improve the reliability and availability of application services to APHIS' stakeholders. Reliability and performance have both been strong focuses of the AITI program and have accomplished steady improvements. For example, the program is testing a fail-safe server infrastructure for critical GSS; and a Storage Area Network has also been implemented for disaster recovery, system availability, and fail-over to eliminate system downtime. The AITI program has also begun an assessment of the critical telecommunications infrastructure. Tools and services are utilized to improve the delivery of these resources to our customers and improve internal processes. Stability and availability of the infrastructure is especially critical to support the timely delivery of information for emergencies such as BSE; and is necessary so that critical program functions can continue in the event of manmade or natural disasters. Improvements also bring the infrastructure into compliance with USDA standards and enterprise architecture.

Implementing these activities will benefit the Agency by providing a secure information technology environment and ensuring that mission critical information systems is accessible on a continual basis. The AITI program has developed a new annual performance indicator to monitor application availability for key services (e.g., e-mail, Oracle applications). As a result of the increased funding in FY 2008, the Agency expects that applications for key services will be available 99 percent of the time. Without the additional funds, the target would be 97 percent which translates to nearly one week of additional downtime per year.

(b) An increase of $5,502,000 and 0 staff years for the Physical/Operational Security program ($990,000 and 0 staff years available in 2007).

Physical and operational security is a necessary measure to prevent acts of bioterrorism, which have the potential to harm humans, animals and animal products, and plants and plant products in the United States. APHIS has heightened its efforts to secure offices and laboratories, ensure employee safety, and prevent access to bio-hazardous materials by unauthorized personnel. These activities are mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPDs) 9 and 12, and other related legislation. HSPD-9 establishes a national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. HSPD-12 mandates that all employees and contractors be identity-proofed and issued a Federal identification (ID) card. Visible security reduces threats to our personnel, assets, and facilities. Prosecution of external threats sets examples of zero tolerance and reduces further threats. Workplace violence and threat reduction education further reduces internal threats. APHIS must continue to analyze vulnerabilities and implement needed countermeasures to provide a secure environment in which our employees can carry out the mission of the Agency and reduce risks to local communities where our laboratories and research facilities are located.

APHIS requests an increase of $2.331 million to continue implementing the Federal ID Card initiative as mandated in HSPD-12. According to the Office of Management and Budget's Standards for the Implementation of the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS), APHIS must issue a Smart card to every employee and contractor employed for six months or more by FY 2008. The requested funding will be used to purchase the cards and allow employees to freely move among 60 facilities, including all of the APHIS critical facilities. Specifically, the funding will be used to acquire Smart cards, readers, software, and access control systems for facilities.

With the additional funds, APHIS will be in full compliance with the mandate by the set deadline of FY 2008. The Federal ID card effort was initiated using Homeland Security Supplemental funds, provided initially in FY 2002, and the program received less than $1 million in the FY 2006 Appropriations Act. Without the additional funding, APHIS will be required to report that we have failed to fully comply with the mandate within the required timeframe. In addition, the Agency may be required to fund the initiative at the expense of mission critical plant and animal health programs.

The program is measuring success by the number of facilities upgraded to meet the mandate. Security systems have long lifecycles. Once all APHIS facilities are upgraded to meet HSPD-12 standards, the program estimates annual maintenance costs of $200,000 each year thereafter.

In FY 2008, the Department of State will continue implementation of the Capital Security Construction program. This is part of a $16 billion effort to construct 150 new embassies over a 12 year period. All agencies, including APHIS, with an overseas presence in U.S. diplomatic facilities will pay a proportionate share for the accelerated construction of new, secure, safe, and functional diplomatic facilities. The Department of State will allocate these costs annually based on the number of authorized positions. APHIS funding for this initiative will progressively increase through FY 2009. In FY 2008, APHIS' contribution will increase by an additional $3.171 million totaling $3.458 million.

The Department of State's key performance measure for the Capital Security Construction Program is the number of secure facilities constructed at high-risk overseas posts to protect employees from terrorists and other security threats. APHIS has not developed a measure for this initiative since the Department of State is responsible for tracking the performance.

The additional funds would avoid the possibility of having to close offices overseas or reduce program activities conducted in foreign locations, preventing any subsequent impact on critical trade relations or the likelihood of foreign animal pest and disease introductions into the U.S.

APHIS provided $1.1 million to the Department of State for this initiative in FY 2006.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SUMMARY OF INCREASES AND DECREASES - PROPOSED LEGISLATION

APHIS plans to propose legislation that would permit the Agency to credit fees collected from entities and/or individuals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to the accounts that incur the costs and to remain available until expended without fiscal year limitation. APHIS is also seeking authority to impose fees on facilities and establishments that are required to be registered under the AWA but that are not currently subject to a fee. The latter category includes research facilities, carriers, and in-transit handlers of animals. Once given the authority to implement user fees for this purpose, APHIS will initiate rulemaking with a full opportunity for interested parties and general public to offer comments before the new fees take effect. The proposal will result in collections of approximately $9 million in FY 2008 which will be used to reduce appropriations needs for FY 2009.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years
2006 Actual and Estimated 2007 and 2008

	FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
United States:						
Alabama	$4,973,648	33	$4,896,537	33	$5,542,143	32
Alaska	648,863	3	694,590	3	786,171	3
Arizona	20,811,737	99	21,498,427	101	24,332,986	95
Arkansas	3,260,258	27	3,488,525	28	3,948,486	27
California	56,865,159	249	38,907,166	252	44,037,059	202
Colorado	70,472,030	464	75,220,429	474	85,138,211	458
Connecticut	1,654,880	10	1,494,714	10	1,691,791	10
Delaware	1,652,450	7	1,456,377	7	1,648,400	7
Florida	434,393,402	505	152,139,823	514	59,016,701	503
Georgia	6,706,193	52	5,335,533	53	6,039,021	51
Hawaii	27,319,289	337	27,760,628	345	31,420,855	335
Idaho	8,918,274	50	9,470,198	52	10,718,840	38
Illinois	12,614,696	36	12,997,619	37	14,711,349	36
Indiana	5,437,977	30	5,727,866	30	6,483,082	29
Iowa	74,878,038	354	80,143,140	363	90,709,980	330
Kansas	4,866,813	30	5,206,873	30	5,893,397	30
Kentucky	5,784,588	33	6,166,671	34	6,979,745	32
Louisiana	3,328,923	31	3,069,138	31	3,473,802	31
Maine	2,805,651	31	2,939,419	32	3,326,980	27
Maryland	277,514,657	1,560	210,433,750	1,592	238,180,352	1,593
Massachusetts	11,653,744	60	11,883,560	61	13,450,403	60
Michigan	20,964,389	107	22,088,223	109	25,000,546	107
Minnesota	25,134,958	54	26,855,501	56	30,396,388	49
Mississippi	9,790,030	99	9,655,738	101	10,928,843	97
Missouri	4,390,385	37	4,697,669	38	5,317,054	37
Montana	4,806,408	43	5,141,577	44	5,819,491	42
Nebraska	11,737,642	33	12,460,228	34	14,103,104	31
Nevada	3,601,985	21	3,828,322	21	4,333,084	21
New Hampshire	1,093,843	7	1,170,764	7	1,325,128	7
New Jersey	17,599,077	81	14,939,154	82	16,908,876	81
New Mexico	10,095,757	43	10,781,515	44	12,203,054	43
New York	30,283,665	201	30,048,322	206	34,010,180	201
North Carolina	86,673,501	316	49,032,806	322	55,497,761	313
North Dakota	2,911,064	26	3,111,381	26	3,521,615	26
Ohio	11,353,681	42	12,127,589	43	13,726,607	41
Oklahoma	4,526,816	31	4,268,727	31	4,831,557	31
Oregon	4,681,425	34	4,499,429	34	5,092,677	33
Pennsylvania	13,529,192	49	13,732,750	50	15,543,408	48
Rhode Island	636,256	1	653,329	1	739,470	1
South Carolina	4,266,982	37	4,221,150	37	4,777,707	35
South Dakota	3,967,973	15	4,240,209	16	4,799,279	15
Tennessee	8,544,811	35	8,343,338	36	9,443,404	34
Texas	43,147,853	427	42,434,495	436	48,029,466	409
Utah	5,578,591	44	5,965,850	45	6,752,445	44
Vermont	2,463,342	20	2,635,199	20	2,982,648	20
Virginia	4,120,150	44	3,916,892	45	4,433,333	43
Washington	8,263,506	66	5,039,035	67	5,703,430	64
West Virginia	4,297,789	31	3,384,580	32	3,830,836	31
Wisconsin	6,793,944	49	7,236,714	50	8,190,872	48
Wyoming	4,745,017	43	5,076,160	44	5,745,450	43

	FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
				0		
U.S. TERRITORIES:				0		
District of Columbia	23,487,851	19	25,143,100	19	28,458,207	19
Guam	450,302	1	271,354	1	307,132	1
Puerto Rico	13,461,681	116	12,241,819	117	13,855,898	116
INTERNATIONAL REGIONS						
AFRICA:						
South Africa	127,486	3	136,470	3	154,464	3
Senegal	203,224	3	217,546	3	246,229	3
Other	175,989	0	188,391	0	213,230	0
ASIA/PACIFIC:						
China	499,774	4	534,995	4	605,534	4
Japan	8,221,287	5	8,800,662	5	9,961,026	5
South Korea	208,383	3	223,068	3	252,480	3
Other	281,822	6	301,683	6	341,460	6
CARIBBEAN:						
Dominican Republic	2,153,094	0	409,139	0	463,083	0
Other	289,997	2	310,434	2	351,365	2
CENTRAL AMERICA:						
Guatemala	23,457,524	23	24,135,188	24	27,317,402	23
Honduras	718,531	4	769,168	4	870,582	4
Panama	3,223,511	30	3,450,680	31	3,905,651	30
Other	985,698	2	1,055,163	2	1,194,286	2
EUROPE/NEAR EAST:						
Austria	131,375	2	140,634	2	159,176	2
Belgium	481,845	0	515,802	0	583,811	0
Egypt	121,108	3	129,642	3	146,736	3
Other	65,475	0	70,089	0	79,331	0
NORTH AMERICA:						
Canada	75,614	2	80,942	2	91,615	2
Mexico	22,800,449	37	23,153,190	38	26,205,929	37
SOUTH AMERICA:						
Argentina	1,241,297	1	1,328,775	1	1,503,973	1
Brazil	517,852	2	226,193	2	256,017	2
Chile	737,878	11	789,878	11	894,023	11
Other	82,446	0	88,256	0	99,893	0
Total direct obligations:	$1,500,762,796	6,316	$1,107,229,894	6,447	$1,140,036,000	6,203

Note: Total direct obligations does not include advances and reimbursements.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Classification by Objects
2006 Actual and Estimated 2007 and 2008
($000)

		2006	2007	2008
Personnel Compensation:				
Washington, DC		94,056	78,991	89,437
Field		282,167	236,974	268,312
		0		
11	Total personnel compensation	376,223	315,965	357,750
12	Personnel benefits	108,302	94,877	107,424
13	Benefits for former personnel	1,107	781	884
	Total, pers. comp. & benefits	485,631	411,623	466,058
Other Objects:				
21	Travel & transportation of personnel	37,349	31,453	35,413
22	Transportation fo things	10,969	11,420	12,930
23.1	Rent payments to GSA	10,003	4,425	5,010
23.2	Rental payments to others	650	590	668
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	25,787	21,448	24,284
24	Printing and reproduction	2,326	1,812	2,052
25.1	Contractual Services Performed by Other Federal Agencies	75,094	55,546	62,892
25.2	Other services	4,198	3,833	4,340
25.3	Repair, Alteration or Maintenace of Equipment, Furniture or Structure	5,992	5,955	6,743
25.4	Contractual Services - Other	68,582	70,484	79,405
25.5	Agreements	213,564	207,494	235,244
25.6	ADP Services and Supplies	4,980	3,626	4,106
25.7	Miscellaneous Services	17,992	18,039	20,425
25.8	Fees	358	495	560
26	Supplies and materials	68,422	68,806	77,905
31	Equipment	45,139	40,742	46,130
32	Land & Structure	61	65	74
41	Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	247,682	84,819	39,424
42	Indemnity	175,902	64,485	16,295
43	Int. & Div	85	70	79
44	Refunds	(4)	0	0
99	Other	0	0	0
	Total, other objects	1,015,132	695,607	673,978
Total direct obligations		1,500,763	1,107,230	1,140,036
Position Data:				
Average Salary, ES positions		154,055	158,831	162,643
Average Salary, GS positions		62,109	63,060	63,916
Average Grade, GS positions		10.08	9.93	9.86

Note: Total direct obligations does not include advances and reimbursements.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

STATUS OF PROGRAM

PEST AND DISEASE EXCLUSION

Current Activities: Through the programs in this component, APHIS works to safeguard U.S. plant and animal resources against the introduction of foreign disease and pests, while allowing the United States to meet its international trade obligations. These activities include monitoring animal and plant health throughout the world and using this information to set effective agricultural import policy. In addition, APHIS conducts offshore risk reduction activities, such as eradication of certain high-risk pests and diseases in foreign countries. APHIS also conducts pre-departure inspections of passenger baggage destined for the U.S. mainland and foreign commodity pre-clearance programs for specific products. In conducting these programs, APHIS works closely with multilateral organizations, such as the International Office of Epizootics, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Through these organizations, we promote effective disease surveillance overseas and gain access to information on animal health issues worldwide.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

1. Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI)

Through the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program, APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) work to safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources from the introduction of invasive pests and diseases. The AQI program encompasses a variety of activities designed to address the agricultural pest risks posed by international travel and trade.

Cooperative Program Management

With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in FY 2003, the responsibility for conducting agricultural port inspections of international passengers and cargo (with the exception of plant propagative materials), mail, passenger baggage, and means of conveyance at U.S. ports of entry and certain off-shore locations transferred to Customs and Border Protection (CBP). APHIS and CBP officials conduct a joint quality assurance program to ensure that agricultural inspection policies are effective. As part of the quality assurance effort, APHIS and CBP conduct port reviews to evaluate operations at individual ports and identify any problems or needs. APHIS and CBP conducted seven port reviews during FY 2006 at maritime ports, airports, and land border crossings. Eight reviews are planned for FY 2007.

Inspections and Pest Interceptions

During FY 2006, agricultural inspectors inspected the baggage of nearly 68 million arriving international passengers and 11 million arriving maritime passengers. Passenger baggage is inspected manually, with x-ray technology, or through the use of detector dogs. Agricultural inspectors also cleared 60,209 ships and 2,094,880 cargo shipments. In total, agricultural inspectors intercepted 54,957 reportable pests at land borders, maritime ports, airports, foreign sites, and post offices.

Pre-Clearance and Pre-Departure

APHIS conducts pre-departure inspections of passengers traveling from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and other islands to reduce the threats of agricultural pests and diseases before they reach the mainland United States. In FY 2006, APHIS inspected the baggage of 10,502,215 passengers before their departures from Hawaii and Puerto Rico. APHIS tracks the success of these efforts through the number of Mediterranean fruit fly outbreaks in the mainland United States that can be traced to Hawaii; the program met its performance target of zero such outbreaks in FY 2006.

APHIS also cooperates with the U.S. Department of Defense to inspect military passenger baggage and equipment prior to its returning from overseas. Heavy military equipment is frequently encrusted with soil that can harbor a variety of agricultural pests, including invasive weed seeds, live insects and snails, and even disease organisms like foot-and-mouth disease. During FY 2006, APHIS participated in military pre-clearance operations in Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras, Kuwait, Peru, Jamaica, and Afghanistan. These activities help ensure that returning military personnel and equipment can enter the United States smoothly while protecting U.S. agriculture.

In addition, APHIS conducts foreign commodity pre-clearance programs in 24 countries, facilitating the safe import of more than 168 commodities. The goal of pre-clearance, an activity which importers pay for through trust funds, is to minimize pest and disease risks away from the United States and allow trade to occur more smoothly. In addition to traditional pre-clearance programs for fruits, vegetables, and flower bulbs, the program certifies nurseries to ship geraniums (which pose a risk for introductions of *Ralstonia solanacearum,* Race 3 Biovar 2) to the United States and signed Irradiation Treatment Framework Equivalency workplans with Mexico, Thailand, and India to allow the United States to import and export irradiated fruits with these three countries.

Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) Program

SITC's mission is to detect and prevent the unlawful entry and distribution of prohibited and/or non-compliant products that may harbor exotic plant and animal pests. Its officials analyze potential smuggling pathways, conduct product traces, and coordinate with investigative organizations to increase compliance with APHIS' regulatory requirements. In FY 2006, SITC seized 590,483 pounds of illegal plant, plant products, meat and meat products including poultry, beef, pork, and dairy products. During the year, SITC provided Customs and Border Protection with specific information that led to seizures at the Port of Elizabeth, New Jersey totaling 240,745 pounds of products potentially affected by the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza, along with some prohibited fruits, vegetables, pork, and beef products. These seizures were from twelve separate maritime containers. There were also 782 seizures/33,598 pounds of prohibited fruit, 126 seizures/29,328 pounds of prohibited items capable of spreading Federal noxious weeds, and 974 seizures/124,865 pounds of other prohibited plant products including rice, corn, citrus leaves, and other foreign items that carry the risk of introducing serious plant pests or pathogens.

Plant Inspection Stations

In its review of APHIS' plant health safeguarding efforts, the National Plant Board identified the import of nursery stock and other propagative plant materials as a significant pathway for invasive diseases. To reduce the risks associated with such imports, APHIS requires certain imported plant materials to enter the United States through one of 17 plant inspection stations, mostly located at major ports of entry. APHIS inspectors and identifiers at these stations inspect shipments to ensure that imported plants are not harboring pests and diseases of quarantine significance. In FY 2006, our inspectors cleared 24,789 shipments containing over 1.2 billion plant units (cuttings, whole plants, or other propagative materials) and intercepted more than 3,500 reportable pests.

Risk Analysis and Scientific Support

The Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory (PERAL), which is part of APHIS' Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, develops pest risk analyses and epidemiological approaches to pest exclusion. In FY 2006, the PERAL group completed over 150 pest risk analyses associated with imports, exports, or significant invasive pest threats, and pest management programs. The Treatment Quality Assurance Unit performs quality assurance reviews and audits of program treatments, certifications and re-certifications including mitigation processes being performed according to APHIS guidelines. In FY 2006, the Treatment Quality Assurance Unit conducted 18 audits at treatment facilities located in Haiti, Peru, Philippines and Mexico. International types of treatment reviewed included methyl bromide, vapor heat, forced hot air, cold treatment and hot water facilities.

Export Certification

APHIS facilitates the export of agriculture shipments through the use of EXCERPT, an electronic database containing plant health import requirements for over 200 countries. APHIS export certifications are provided as a service to U.S. exporters and help ensure U.S. products meet the agricultural requirements of the country of destination. Over 2,000 authorized certification officials, including APHIS officers and county and state plant regulatory officials, can access information on foreign countries' phytosanitary certification requirements on-line. In FY 2006, APHIS issued more than 383,603 Federal plant health export certificates for agriculture shipments.

APHIS continued the implementation of its new Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) database in FY 2006. PCIT allows exporters to apply for certificates and schedule inspection appointments on-line and provide APHIS with the ability to capture export application information, document inspection and certification information, print an original phytosanitary certificate on secure paper (which still needs to be signed by an authorized certification official), and generate export reports. The system was initially launched at 12 locations in December 2005 and expanded to 75 locations in 24 States by the end of FY 2006. As of October 31, 2006, more than 7,200 certificates were issued using the system and have been accepted by more than 100 countries. APHIS will continue expanding the system in FY 2007 and training both government and industry users. In FY 2006, APHIS' web-based training reached 2,000 issuing officials and 1,500 industry participants.

2. Cattle Fever Ticks

During 2006, APHIS horseback river patrols along the U.S.-Mexican border apprehended a total of 97 Mexican livestock compared to 35 livestock in FY 2005, a 277 percent increase in total apprehensions. Out of 42 cattle apprehended, 23 were infested with cattle ticks. Out of 55 horses apprehended, 5 were infested with cattle ticks. Among the 105 native groups of livestock strays apprehended, there were 90 cattle and 61 horses.

Sixty-five infested premises were discovered: 50 were located in the quarantine zone while 15 were discovered in the free area. Thus far, APHIS recognizes several causes for the rising number of infestations in the free area, such as more exotic livestock (elk, antelope) ranches without the necessary high fencing; the wettest season in 30 years, which has enabled ticks to live longer; and a continued reduction of river patrols since 2003 due to a quarter of the program's workforce being deployed to other animal health emergencies, thus allowing strays to get through the border and ultimately increasing the population.

There are an increasing number of deer leases in south Texas. Many ranchers are finding that it is often more profitable to lease their land to hunters than to raise cattle. The program has documented the role of white-tailed deer and other wild ungulates (hoofed mammals) in sustaining populations of cattle ticks. Exotic wildlife, especially ungulate species, can serve as hosts for cattle fever ticks. The number of ranches with exotic game commingling with cattle in the permanent quarantine area in Texas is on the rise. APHIS' tick force personnel and USDA's Agricultural Research Service are evaluating treatments for ticks on deer and exotic animals.

In FY 2006, APHIS completed a comprehensive national strategic plan to address new challenges that APHIS and its cooperators face while continuing to focus on the program's mission of maintaining the United States as free of cattle fever ticks. Currently, the cattle tick program is authorized under myriad enabling laws, rules, memoranda, and supplements, including 9 CFR, part 72; Veterinary Services Memorandum No. 556.1 and Supplements; Chapter 167 of the Texas Agriculture Code; Chapter 41 of the Texas Administrative Code; and about 200 policy statements regarding tick activities. In September 2006, APHIS began a comprehensive review of the program to update and consolidate these policies and procedures. The Agency will review, update, and consolidate program standard operating procedures, including any unofficial policies, to ensure that program standards are sufficient to enable implementation of an effective eradication program. These standards will be reviewed in cooperation with the Texas Animal Health Commission and Agricultural Research Service, ensuring that clear standards exist to treat not only cattle but also free-ranging wildlife and exotics on and adjacent to tick-infested premises.

3. Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Foreign Animal Diseases

APHIS' Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD) and programs protect the United States from the risk of exotic animal diseases. The Agency detects and controls outbreaks of FADs throughout the world by participating in cooperative animal disease eradication programs. Thus, the program reduces the risk of these diseases spreading to the United States. The Agency also conducts animal health capacity building activities in foreign countries to monitor and control animal diseases and maintain a presence of APHIS animal health professionals throughout the world. Overall, these efforts support the goal to protect the United States from the risk of FADs.

In Central America, APHIS and Panama's Ministry of Agriculture maintain a vesicular disease diagnostic laboratory, known as LADIVES. This laboratory is a Bio-Security Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory and analyzes all samples for vesicular diseases from Central American countries. The laboratory is now using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for the diagnosis of vesicular diseases and other disease conditions including avian influenza (AI). The PCR is real time and available for FMD, vesicular diseases, and bovine viral diarrhea. The program converted LADIVES into a resource laboratory for AI for Central America and the Caribbean and will be the World Reference Laboratory for Screwworm. In FY 2006, the laboratory tested 1,819 samples. Of those, our Agency officials reported 1,126 cases of Vesicular stomatitis (New Jersey serotype), 65 Vesicular stomatitis (Indiana serotype), and no cases of FMD.

South America has one of the largest cattle populations in the world, which continues to circulate the FMD virus. Given the proximity to the United States and increase in international travel, APHIS continues to assist countries in South America to detect FADs. Agency officials improved surveillance and detection of FADs by providing resources, conducting workshops, and facilitating cooperative projects. The number of confirmed FMD cases is 99 percent less than 2001[a]. In FY 2006, APHIS continued the cooperative program with the Columbia Institute of Agriculture and maintained 15 field epidemiology stations in Columbia that conducted 455 vesicular disease investigations. Through these field investigations, our Agency officials reported 300 cases of Vesicular stomatitis (New Jersey serotype), 11 Vesicular stomatitis (Indiana serotype), and no cases of FMD. Agency officials led the development of a five-year strategic plan to eradicate FMD in Colombia, which intensifies activities near the borders of Ecuador and Venezuela where FMD remains endemic and presents a risk to Columbia. The Agency has begun building upon its partnership with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture, which reported 21 FMD cases in FY 2006. In Bolivia, Agency officials continued to conduct training and increased infrastructure support to the Ministry of Agriculture and have reported no FMD cases since 2004.

In the North American region, APHIS continued its partnership in the Mexico-U.S. Commission for the Prevention of FMD and other FADs. The Commission completed renovation on the animal health laboratory in Palo Alto, Mexico, which received BSL 3 certification. This laboratory will provide APHIS with surge capacity in the event of an FAD outbreak in the United States. In FY 2006, the laboratory tested over 100,000 samples for many diseases including avian influenza, equine encephalopathy, exotic Newcastle disease, rabies, vesicular diseases, and West Nile virus. In particular, the laboratory tested 106 samples for vesicular diseases. Of these, 55 samples tested positive for vesicular stomatitis and no samples tested positive for FMD.

In the Caribbean region, APHIS maintained its partnerships with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in Haiti and the Secretariat of State of Agriculture in the Dominican Republic. APHIS provided technical assistance to both countries to avoid the introduction of exotic diseases of animals and to work toward the eradication of Classical Swine Fever (CSF). Despite the political instability in Haiti, APHIS continued assistance with the development of an animal health infrastructure, which includes epidemiology, diagnostic, and surveillance capabilities. APHIS also distributed 600,905 doses of CSF vaccine, which represents nearly 75 percent of the swine population. APHIS collected 2,254 serum samples with 26 percent testing positive for CSF. In the Dominican Republic, APHIS distributed 1.5 million doses of CSF vaccine, covering 80 percent of the swine population. APHIS collected 648 serum samples with 33 percent testing positive and also collected 1,222 tissue samples with 4 percent testing positive. Our scientists conducted further analysis of the data in the Dominican Republic, which showed approximately 20 percent of swine farms infected with CSF. APHIS also

[a] This includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The totals reported were: 4,367 (2001), 136 (2002), 79 (2003), 104 (2004), 78 (2005), and 42 (2006).

developed an active CSF surveillance program at the slaughter plants to provide the country with the capability to trace back information that will locate infected premises.

In the Middle East and northern and eastern Africa regions, APHIS continues to strengthen its relationship with several countries. APHIS conducted training for official animal health personnel from 14 countries on epidemiology and disease diagnostics, emergency preparedness, and crisis management. The trainees were from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Oman, Sudan, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) and also included trainees from two sub-Saharan African countries: Kenya and Uganda. APHIS also provided in-country training to both animal health programs in Afghanistan and Iraq. APHIS conducted a workshop for 85 Iraqi veterinarians to develop a strategic plan. APHIS reports weekly tracking reports on priority FADs that occur in the Middle East and northern and eastern Africa. APHIS worked with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to investigate the origins of a new FMD outbreak in Egypt. The findings show the outbreak from an importation of cattle from Ethiopia. Furthermore, APHIS assessed animal health laboratories in UAE, Jordan, Pakistan, Morocco, and Egypt and provided laboratory equipment to Egypt, Pakistan, and Kenya. APHIS provided FAD diagnostic training to animal health officials in Kenya, which is a key beef exporter in eastern Africa. APHIS has become a member of OIE's Middle Eastern Steering Committee for the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TAD). This committee's objective is to develop regional strategies to control and eradicate TADs.

In western Africa, APHIS and the Senegalese Veterinary Research Laboratory furnished new viable FMD virus to our Plum Island facility to support our disease intelligence goal of mapping and investigating new FMD serotypes and subtypes throughout the world. The Agency worked with USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) to provide FAD training to field and laboratory veterinarians from western African countries where FMD is endemic. Also with FAS, the Agency assisted with the development of 14 veterinarian schools in western Africa. APHIS provided equipment, laboratory reagents, and technical expertise to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, and Nigeria to prepare first responders for avian influenza outbreaks.

4. Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection (FFED)

APHIS' FFED program, with both domestic and international partners, is conducting a wide range of activities to protect the health and value of American agriculture resources threatened by the establishment of exotic fruit fly populations. The program has developed a strategic plan for FY 2006- 2010, which includes three goals to prevent establishment of exotic fruit flies. The program's accomplishments that support these goals are described below.

Enhance detection and response capabilities and strengthen preventive release programs
In September and October of 2005, the program detected two Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) outbreaks in San Bernardino County and two additional Medflies in Santa Clara County. Using $5 million in emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and matching State funds, APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) conducted two cooperative eradication programs consisting of delimiting surveys, sterile fly releases, chemical controls, and regulatory actions. The surveys began promptly after the program found the first fly. The fly releases began at 62,500 per square mile then increased to 500,000 flies per square mile after additional detections. The program enforced regulatory controls on the movement of host commodities within the quarantine area. Also, the program issued compliance agreements to regulate entities handling host commodities. To monitor their compliance throughout the quarantine, the program performed regular compliance checks of these entities. The program eradicated the pest and removed both quarantines in September 2006.

Also in FY 2006, APHIS spent approximately $1 million in carryover funds from the CCC on Mexican Fruit Fly (Mexfly) activities in California. With these funds, the Agency responded to the detection in January and February of 2006 of three wild Mexflies in three separate locations within one mile of each other in the Huntington Park area of Los Angeles County, California. APHIS and CDFA responded by releasing 750,000 to 800,000 sterile Mexflies per square mile over 14 square miles around the detections. Program officials were able to quickly and efficiently prevent detected incipient wild Mexflies from becoming established, thereby preventing permanent establishment and spread.

Elsewhere in California, the program detected 21 Oriental Fruit Flies (OFF) in 13 areas with the need for only one regulatory action – a Federal quarantine in the Rialto area of San Bernardino County, which was initiated in September 2006. In Fresno County, the program detected six peach fruit flies in May 2006. APHIS responded by establishing a quarantine in June 2006. Using spot bait stations the program eradicated this pest, and lifted the quarantine in July 2006.

In addition, the program made additional detections that did not require regulatory action: seven detections of guava Fruit Fly, four detections of Mexfly, and three detections of peach fruit fly. There were also 10 detections of Sapote Fruit Fly, which did not necessitate regulatory action.

The program's rapid response to detections has bolstered the ability of impacted growers to maintain international and interstate trade of host commodities while avoiding the cost of fumigation treatments. In Florida, APHIS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) continued to maintain approximately 56,000 fruit fly detection traps Statewide. The program made no detections of exotic fruit flies in FY 2006. APHIS and the State also worked to release sterile Medflies under a preventative release program (PRP) in three areas. Florida's PRP continues to demonstrate success, with no Medflies detected since 1998. In addition, APHIS cooperated with other State and Territorial plant regulatory agencies to maintain fruit fly surveillance programs in 10 additional States and Territories: Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the Virgin Islands. The program detected no exotic fruit flies in any of these States or Territories in FY 2006.

Ensure Medfly does not move north of the State of Chiapas, Mexico

APHIS works cooperatively with Mexico and Guatemala in the Moscamed Program, which for the past 30 years has protected U.S. agriculture by preventing the northward spread of Medfly populations out of Central America. In 2006, the Moscamed Program helped eradicate Medfly from over 10,000 square kilometers of project area, thus strengthening and widening the Medfly-free barrier zone. This barrier is a crucial part of APHIS strategy to reduce the risk of Medfly outbreaks in the United States.

During 2006, there were a total of 329 outbreaks along the barrier zone. Of these, the program has controlled all but 92, and will likely control the rest by the end of December 2006. This is a considerable reduction, especially in Guatemala where there often have been over 1,000 outbreaks annually. The Agency spent approximately $2.3 million of CCC funds for the Moscamed program in FY 2005. The program used the funds to buy diet material and other supplies for sterile production at the El Pino facility and to complete various construction projects at the packing and release center in Ixquisis, Guatemala. The program also began study to determine the likelihood and consequences of a failure of the Medfly barrier in Chiapas, Mexico.

The 2006 successes are attributed to a number of factors. The program made adjustments in its outbreak response protocols, which enabled field personnel to more quickly and effectively respond to Medfly trap captures in Chiapas. The trapping program in Mexico considerably improved trap servicing operations, thus making it possible to more quickly detect and limit the size of outbreaks. The program also made technical changes in its area-wide management plan, to disperse sterile flies in different locations according to where the main fertile Medfly population was most likely to break out of its barrier position. Program managers were able to implement this new plan with their growing expertise in geographic information systems technology. The Moscamed Program also began operations at a new sterile fly emergence center, which is closer to sterile dispersal blocks. This will eventually save money in reduced flight contract time. In addition, the program used a new sterile fly release machine, which enables pilots to more precisely place sterile flies in dispersal blocks.

Eradicate Mexfly from Texas and northern Mexico along the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) and maintain the area free of reintroduction

In Texas, increased program activities reduced the number of detections of Mexfly to 39 in FY 2006 from 126 in FY 2005. These detections triggered protocol suppression and regulatory activities, although regulatory treatments were not necessary for most of the citrus shipping season. In FY 2006, there were no Mexfly-free Texas Counties or Mexican municipalities in the LRGV. However, one quarantined county in Texas (Willacy) has not had any Mexfly detection since June 2005. As a result, APHIS will conduct verification surveys and hopes to remove the quarantine and declare the area Mexfly-free in 2007. In FY 2006, the program quarantined 391 square miles based on fruit fly outbreaks. However, the program reduced this figure 65 square miles by the end of the fiscal year. The program also met its target of no detections under a PRP that resulted in an outbreak.

In addition, the program released 110 million sterile Mexflies per week in the LRGV of Texas due to lack of sterile fly eclosion capacity.

In Mexico, APHIS opened a new emergence center in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This enabled the release of sterile insects on Mexico's side of the border to better protect the citrus production in Texas. APHIS also maintained a trap line along the border with both California and Texas to provide an early detection tool for the northern movement of exotic fruit flies from Mexico. And to further protect the States, APHIS maintained a sterile release program along the border of California and Texas to suppress Mexican fruit fly activity.

Overall, APHIS' long-term performance measure is the number of exotic fruit fly outbreaks in the United States. The FY 2006 target was zero, but four outbreaks occurred in California: two in the Los Angeles basin, one in Fresno, and one in San Jose. The program eradicated three of these outbreaks in FY 2006 and will eradicate the fourth in FY 2007.

5. Import/Export

In FY 2006, APHIS conducted the regulatory oversight for the importation of 10.7 million head of livestock. This included 2.3 million cattle, 8.4 million swine, and 36,441 horses. For animal product imports, APHIS reviewed and issued 2,735 new import permits, 1,065 amended permits, and 3,410 renewed permits.

Cattle imported from Mexico decreased slightly from 1.3 million in 2005 to 1.2 million in 2006. Canadian cattle imports increased this year due to a full year's implementation of the Minimal Risk Rule for bovine spongiform encephalopathy that was initiated in July 2005. The imports of Canadian cattle increased from 200,000 in FY 2005 to 1.1 million in FY 2006.

APHIS recognizes that risks may be tied to climatic, geographical, and biological factors that are not always defined by national political boundaries. This approach is consistent with our obligations under international trade agreements. To help ensure that our standards for regulating imports and assessing that disease risk within defined regions are clearly defined and applied on a consistent and scientific basis, APHIS evaluates the animal health status of countries and/or regions requesting approval to export animals and/or animal products into the United States.

In FY 2006, APHIS' animal health status evaluations included the following countries or regions:

- Argentina: Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)
- Mexico: Various States for bovine tuberculosis, exotic Newcastle disease (END), and/or classical swine fever
- European Union: Ten new Member States for various swine diseases
- Brazil: FMD
- Canada: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)
- Honduras: END
- Australia: Bovine tuberculosis

In addition, APHIS developed extensive information packages and/or responded to questionnaires from various countries in an effort to retain or reopen export markets or expand market access. The issues and countries included:

- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy: Chile, China, Colombia, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Panama, Peru, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand
- Avian Influenza: Argentina, Columbia, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Taiwan, and Venezuela
- Anaplasmosis: Canada
- Bovine semen and semen collection centers: Chile and the European Union
- U.S. veterinary infrastructure: Panama
- Equine Herpes Virus-1: Philippines

APHIS issued point-of-origin certificates for the export of the following commodities:

- 264,332 head of livestock;
- 31 million live poultry;
- 71 million hatching eggs;
- 30 million day-old chicks;
- 15 million live fish, including mollusks and crustaceans;
- 195 million aquatic embryos and eggs;
- 11 million doses of bovine semen;
- 32,150 bovine embryos;
- 19,598 pork semen and embryos;
- 37,282 equine semen and embryos;
- 272 zoo animals, and
- 378 cervids.

APHIS also developed, modified, or successfully negotiated 30 protocols for the export of animals and animal products during FY 2006. APHIS helped retain, restore, or open new markets for approximately 30 markets international trade in animals and animal products.

These protocols will lead to millions of dollars in new trade opportunities for American producers. For example, APHIS provided in-depth information and conducted extensive trade negotiations that reopened numerous markets to ruminants and ruminant products following the third detection of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the United States. APHIS also maintained and reopened markets by negotiating animal health certification requirements for U.S. poultry products and by providing epidemiologic, surveillance, and other data that enabled trading partners to accept the zoning of poultry diseases within the United States.

In addition, APHIS successfully implemented a "four-stage" permitting process used in e-Permits (an on-line permitting system). E-Permits is a Web-based tool that allows users to apply for a permit, check the status of applications, and view issued permits and more on-line.

6. Screwworm

APHIS' Screwworm Program prevents infestation of screwworm flies in the United States by working with Mexico and countries in Central America. Together, we have eradicated the pets from all of Central America to the Darien Gap, between Colombia and Panama. APHIS produced 124 million sterile screwworm flies per week during FY 2006 to maintain the barrier at the Darién Gap. The Agency also provided flies for Jamaica. Agency officials detected no cases of screwworm in Central America in FY 2006. In addition, Panama received screwworm-free status on July 12, 2006.

During FY 2006 APHIS completed construction of the screwworm rearing facility in Panama. The Agency will initiate production as soon as the x-ray sterilizing units arrive and staff is hired and trained. By February 2007, the Agency will have the facility in operation.

APHIS strives towards increasing efficiency within the program operations. In FY 2006, the sterile screwworm fly production facility invested in new boilers, which reduced diesel consumption by over 15 percent. The facility also switched to a cellulose-based larval diet, which lowered production costs. This modified larval diet, based on less expensive and biodegradable cellulose fiber as the bulking and gelling agent, shows that the new diet produces higher quality insects. The change to the new cellulose-based diet allows more economical rearing of screwworms, making the program more cost-effective, and the bulking agent is biodegradable.

7. Trade Issues Resolution and Management (TIRM)

APHIS resolves and manages trade issues by being involved in negotiating trade regulations and free trade agreements, setting international standards, providing technical assistance, and facilitating capacity building activities.

In FY 2005[2], APHIS facilitated U.S. agricultural trade by negotiating trade regulations. The Agency successfully negotiated 79 sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) trade-related issues involving U.S. agricultural exports, which permitted trade worth over $1.4 billion to occur. These export accomplishments included opening new markets for apples to Japan and stone fruit (apricots, nectarines, peaches, and plums) to Mexico. The Agency also retained 53 key markets around the world for products ranging from beef to Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the Philippines, and poultry and poultry products from Singapore, Thailand, and China. In addition, the Agency permitted new or expanded access for imported products from Australia, Canada, Mexico, Korea, and Thailand.APHIS played a significant role in supporting negotiations of 10 bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements by providing expertise during negotiations of SPS trade issues. These include: the North American Free Trade Agreement; the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement; the Australia Free Trade Agreement; the Bahrain Free Trade Agreement; the Chile Free Trade Agreement; the Central American - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement; the Israel Free Trade Agreement; the Jordan Free Trade Agreement; the Malaysia Free Trade Agreement; and the Morocco Free Trade Agreement. Free trade negotiations have provided leverage to resolve key SPS issues. Prominent examples of issues resolved through these negotiations in FY 2006 include: boneless beef to Korea; beef to Central America; beef and beef products to Colombia; beef products to Malaysia and Peru; poultry and poultry products to Peru; and shelled walnuts to Korea.

APHIS works with the International Plant Protection Convention and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to set international standards. The World Trade Organization (WTO) recognizes these standards as benchmark sanitary and phytosanitary standards for global trade. In FY 2006, the Agency worked with more than 120 other member countries to develop and adopt the five new or updated international phytosanitary standards. These include: The Revision of a Standard on Principles for the Protection of Plant Health and the Application of Phytosanitary Measures in International Trade; Diagnostic Protocols for Regulated Pests; Guidelines for Consignments in Transit; Requirements for the Establishment & Maintenance of Pest Free Areas for Fruit Flies; and Revision of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15 on Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packing Materials in Trade. The Agency also worked with over 140 countries and various regional and international entities to develop and establish sanitary standards for safe trade of animals and animal products. These include: Aquatic Animal Health Standards; Animal Welfare Standards; Beef Trade and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Poultry Trade and Avian Influenza; and Other Terrestrial Animal Health Standards.

APHIS contributes significantly to the overall federal effort to provide technical assistance and trade capacity building in the SPS area. Likewise, the WTO SPS agreement encourages members to provide technical assistance to developing countries in order to increase their capacity to trade and to implement the requirements of the SPS agreement. The Agency also has a strategic interest to help countries develop the necessary regulatory infrastructure and technical expertise. Doing so increases the likelihood that exports to the United States meet our animal and plant health standards and does not result in the introduction of foreign pests or diseases.

APHIS cooperates with other federal agencies to implement technical assistance activities, including USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department, and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. In addition, the APHIS International Visitors Center plays a key role in coordinating technical assistance. In FY 2006, the Visitors Center hosted over 100 individuals and delegations. The Center arranged a variety of programs for these international visitors,

[2] Certain data in this section is currently available only for Fiscal Year 2005.

including visits to ports and APHIS diagnostic laboratories, training in risk assessment, and exchanges on biotechnology, fruit fly programs, avian influenza, disease surveillance, and a variety of other topics.

One of APHIS' major accomplishments was the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Capacity Building Workshop in October 2005. Agency personnel took the lead in facilitating an international workshop for regulatory officials. The workshop, which featured government representatives from approximately 20 Asian countries, increased the capacity of participating countries to apply international standards and scientific principles in trade.

APHIS also continues to increase support of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. In FY 2006, the Agency made significant progress on pest risk assessments to facilitate exports from Africa to the United States. Four new commodities entered rulemaking and additional assessments are under development. The Agency also worked with Namibia's Ministry of Agriculture to recognize disease-free regions (especially FMD) and began the certification process to allow beef imports to the United States from Namibia. In South Africa, the Agency assured continued market access for South Africa after detection of quarantine pests in shipments by rapidly developing alternative treatments

8. Tropical Bont Tick

APHIS has been involved in the cooperative program for Tropical Bont Tick (TBT) known as the Caribbean Amblyomma Program (CAP) since 1994. The goal of the CAP is to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean islands of Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts, Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Maarten. The European Union (EU), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) were also external donors and participants in the program. In 1994- 2005, the program received approximately $1.3 million per year from external donors. However, the IICA withdrew from the program in 1998. In 2003, the EU funds were exhausted and the FAO funds were exhausted in 2005. The CAP continues to carry out TBT eradication efforts in the Caribbean through its partnerships with APHIS and the island nation governments. In FY 2006, APHIS provided resources to Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Maarten for TBT surveillance. Furthermore, APHIS trained two FAO employees working for the Antigua TBT program.

Previously, the CAP based certification on the absence of adult ticks for 24 months. This requirement made six of the nine islands provisionally free from TBT: Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and St. Lucia. However, after further review, the CAP found that larvae and nymphs can survive in the environment up to 48 months. With this new standard, only Anguilla and Montserrat were provisionally free from TBT in 2006.

PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

Current Activities: The program activities under this component minimize agricultural production losses and export market disruptions by quickly detecting and responding to new invasive agricultural pests and diseases or other emerging agricultural health situations. APHIS monitors animal and plant health to detect and react to exotic pests and disease introductions to enhance the quality, safety, and competitiveness of U.S. products. The Agency creates and updates endemic pest and disease information bases and monitors and carries out surveys in cooperation with States and industry. Early detection reduces the spread of exotic plant pests, helps eliminate significant losses, and helps maintain pest-free status for export certification of agricultural commodities. U.S. agriculture is currently free from hundreds of foreign pests and diseases. Survey data are essential for initiating action programs, and result in better pest and disease management. APHIS will continue to increase and expand monitoring and surveillance activities, including the identification of potential pathways for animal disease transmission and increasing the number and intensity of plant pest surveys throughout the United States.

Regulatory enforcement activities prevent the spread of communicable animal pests and diseases in interstate trade. These activities include inspection, surveillance, animal identification, and prosecution. By serving as the investigative arm of APHIS, we aim to achieve voluntary or enforced compliance of our regulations and significantly reduce the likelihood of a foreign disease or pest introduction and the associated costs of an eradication program. The Agency also investigates alleged violations of Federal animal welfare and horse protection laws and regulations. The Agency oversees and coordinates subsequent prosecution of violators through appropriate civil or criminal procedures.

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, we develop pathway studies and thoroughly investigate the progression of outbreaks to determine the origin of plant and animal pests and diseases.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

1. Animal Health and Monitoring and Surveillance

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy(BSE)
In FY 2006, APHIS released two reports related to BSE surveillance. The first was a summary report of the data collected as part of the enhanced surveillance effort. The second was a draft analysis that estimated the prevalence of BSE in the United States that was drawn from data collected during both the enhanced surveillance effort and previous surveillance. This analysis concluded the prevalence of BSE in the United States is extremely low, with less than one case per million head of adult cattle. This estimate was submitted to a peer review process in accordance with Office of Management and Budget guidelines. The peer review panelists agreed with the appropriateness of APHIS' assumptions, the factors considered, and the estimate of BSE prevalence. The panelists also found the model to be robust and statistically and epidemiologically sound.

With the conclusion of the enhanced surveillance effort, APHIS implemented its ongoing BSE surveillance program. Under the ongoing surveillance program for BSE, APHIS will test approximately 40,000 cattle, 30-months of age or older, annually from the following surveillance stream sources: 1) on-farm; 2) veterinary diagnostic laboratories; 3) public health laboratories; 4) FSIS and State-inspected slaughter facilities; and, 5) rendering or 3D/4D facilities. The sampling goal of 40,000 was set based on USDA's intention to design the most efficient and effective surveillance system possible, in targeting the appropriate number of samples from the populations where any BSE that exists will most likely be found. Under ongoing BSE surveillance, cattle that are identified as "clinical suspect" will continue to be sampled regardless of the avenue through which they were presented to surveillance, and regardless of the degree with which sampling goals have been met. Clinical suspects, whether categorized as such by sample collectors or post-sampling on the basis of the clinical history associated with the animal sampled, will be considered to be of the highest value for ongoing surveillance.

Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Investigations
To prevent FAD incursions, APHIS thoroughly investigated all suspicious situations. Many were subsequently diagnosed as not being an FAD. APHIS conducted 576 suspected FAD investigations in FY 2006, compared to 1,027 conducted in FY 2005. The decrease was due in part to a decrease in the number of cases investigated for horses infected with vesicular stomatitis virus. There was an outbreak of vesicular stomatitis in 2005 and the outbreak was over in April of 2006.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)
In FY 2006, APHIS continued to increase its capacity to provide: 1) a secure communication, reporting, and alert system; 2) standardized rapid diagnostic techniques; 3) modern equipment and experienced personnel trained in the detection of emergent, foreign, bioterrorist agents through the NAHLN; 4) training, proficiency testing, and quality assurance to ensure that all laboratories met established quality standards;

5) Federal and State facility upgrades to meet biocontainment requirements; and, 6) periodic scenario testing of the response network.

To increase its capacity to provide a secure communication, reporting, and alert system, APHIS continued to integrate the NAHLN Information Technology system with numerous existing animal health and veterinary diagnostic data networks. The system is being designed to allow a seamless electronic transfer of information from the time diagnostic samples are collected in the field, to the addition of appropriate diagnostic tests and test results from the NAHLN veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and finally to the daily reporting of relevant information from each submission to the NAHLN repository database. Progress was made in the design of the system in recognizing emerging issues and providing automated alerts on defined animal health events to authorized personnel in support of disease prevention and response. Once integrated, the system will allow NAHLN labs to securely transmit and store data using nationally recognized health information standards that improve data quality and data re-use in systems such as the Department of Homeland Security's National Biosurveillance Integration System.

APHIS increased its capacity to conduct standardized rapid diagnostic techniques by awarding cooperative agreements to State laboratories to increase the number of experienced personnel trained and equipped to detect emerging, foreign, and bioterrorist agents as part of the NAHLN. One method used to increase its capacity was the initiation of the "Train the Trainer" program. This program succeeded in increasing the number of laboratories qualified to conduct CSF surveillance from 15 to 29, in increasing the number of people approved to conduct tests, and in developing a cadre of people from NAHLN laboratories with the skills and educational materials to provide training to others. In addition, three training classes were held that equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to develop and implement an electronic interface between their internal laboratory information management systems and the NAHLN central data system. Participants included representatives from 31 NAHLN laboratories plus the National Wildlife Health Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. The electronic message for laboratory results was finalized at the end of the fiscal year to enable laboratories to begin sending diagnostic results electronically. Due to the increased possibility that NAHLN laboratories scheduled to test for CSF will also be involved in testing for Avian Influenza (AI), the training provided to the laboratories addressed the process for electronic submission of AI results as well. Forty-five NAHLN labs worked in collaboration with Wildlife Services to conduct real time PCR assays on wild bird samples for the presence of the Avian Influenza (AI) virus. Those samples were forwarded to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for additional testing with research assistance from USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory.

National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS)

APHIS is continually working to improve its surveillance system by developing national animal health surveillance plans, which are based on up-to-date models of disease introduction and spread. In FY 2006, APHIS implemented approximately seventy-five percent of its comprehensive Classical Swine Fever (CSF) plan as part of the Swine Health Surveillance Plan. Implementation activities included: collaboration with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to enable collection of samples at slaughter for CSF testing; completion of the CSF database to allow submitters and approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) testing laboratories to submit sample results on-line; development of the CSF Surveillance Procedures Manual by the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), National Center for Animal Health Programs, and NAHLN staffs; and formation of the CSF database Change Control Board. The CSF Change Control Board is a working group of users who access the CSF database. When a change is proposed, APHIS can consult with this group to see how the modifications would affect them to ensure a reasonable end result for everyone who uses the system.

In the near future, APHIS plans to combine its individual swine disease surveillance plans into one comprehensive, integrated swine surveillance system. With this integrated system in place, APHIS will be able to more efficiently monitor the animal health status of the Nation's herds and flocks.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

At the end of FY 2006, all 50 States, 2 U.S. Territories, and 5 Tribal Nations were participating in the national premises identification registration system. Forty-one (41) States were operational using the standardized premises registration system provided by USDA. The remaining States used one of several compliant premises registration systems, for which they were financially responsible. Premises registration continued to be USDA's priority, which APHIS supported by providing cooperative agreement funding to States and Tribes. The States and Tribes themselves administered the premises registration process. By the end of FY 2006, there were 323,740 registered premises. The implementation plan published in April 2006 calls for having all premises registered by January 2009.

The component of NAIS that enables individual animal identification became operational in March 2006 and was used during the third and fourth quarters to report the distribution of Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags used in disease programs (Scrapie, Chronic Wasting Disease and Tuberculosis). In August 2006, USDA authorized two manufacturers to begin producing AIN tags for general use by producers in the NAIS.

USDA continued development of a portal system, referred to as the Animal Trace Processing System, to support the integration of multiple animal tracking databases.

National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP)

Accredited veterinarians are instrumental in increasing USDA's capability to perform competent health certifications and to maintain extensive disease surveillance and monitoring. The voluntary NVAP certifies private veterinary practitioners to work cooperatively with Federal veterinarians and State animal health officials. In FY 2006, APHIS developed and published a proposed rule announcing the structure of the new NVAP. USDA proposed to amend the regulations to establish two accreditation categories in place of the current category, add requirements for supplemental training and renewal of accreditation, and offer accreditation specializations. Under the proposed rule, Category I would authorize veterinarians to perform accredited duties on companion animals only. Veterinarians would be authorized to perform accredited duties on all species to include poultry, equines and livestock under Category II. The new two-tiered system will replace the current structure under which an accredited veterinarian is authorized to perform accredited duties on all species. Comments were received and responses were developed about the proposed rule.

In FY 2006, APHIS made changes to the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining: electronic Veterinary Accreditation Program (VSPS:eVAP) module in response to the comments received from users. The NVAP initiated the process of determining where the training modules would be hosted to support new program training requirements. In addition, APHIS began developing new parameters to support the business processes of the new program.

2. Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement

The Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) staff continues to provide support to all APHIS programs by conducting investigations of alleged violations of Federal laws and regulations under the Agency's jurisdiction through appropriate civil or criminal procedures. At the same time, the demand for IES services continues to grow and affect the human, fiscal, and information technology resources available to deliver those services.

In FY 2006, APHIS personnel conducted a total of 5,140 investigations, a significant increase over the 3,253 investigations conducted in FY 2005. The investigations resulted in 942 warnings, 1,934 civil penalty stipulations, 138 Administrative Law Judge decisions, and over $2.8 million assessed in fines.

APHIS conducted 3,988 investigations involving plant quarantine violations, resulting in 297 warnings, 1,742 civil penalty stipulations, 25 Administrative Law Judge decisions, and over $1.7 million collected in

fines. APHIS conducted widespread market surveillance to intercept prohibited foreign fruits and vegetables illegally smuggled into the United States, as well as prohibited plants and plant materials. In one such case, an IES Specialist worked with Federal Express to settle a total of 77 hold violations of which 18 fell under the Plant Protection Act and the remaining 59 under the Animal Health Protection Act. The settlement agreement initially consisted of 85 violations from April 2005 through August 2005 and with further research, 77 counts were documented and valid. Federal Express paid a significant civil penalty of $85,000. In another instance, IES worked with American Airlines where they paid a total of $51,500 in fines for several hold violations of the Animal Health Protection Act and the Plant Protection Act remedial measures and for the movement of an actionable pest.

APHIS conducted 670 investigations involving animal health programs in FY 2006, resulting in 362 warnings, 94 civil penalty stipulations, 17 Administrative Law Judge decisions, and $195,000 collected in fines. In addition, APHIS took several hundred administrative actions on animal health program violations disclosed at the border ports by agricultural quarantine inspectors. In one particular case, the Wayland Livestock Auction, Inc., was assessed a stipulation of $15,000 for failure to officially identify animals as required by their Approved Livestock Market Agreement pursuant to 9 CFR 71.20. The animals were not back-tagged and were therefore, not sampled at slaughter and tested for animal disease since there was no way to trace to the farm of origin. The failure to identify the animals was a significant violation because the market purchased several groups of sows from a herd that was later determined to be infected with brucellosis. By failing to officially identify these sows, the Wayland Livestock Auction, Inc. prevented APHIS from conducting slaughter surveillance on these animals and hindered the ability to find this infected herd in a timely manner.

APHIS conducted 480 animal care investigations in FY 2006, resulting in 249 formal cases submitted for civil administrative action, 283 letters of warning for animal care, 95 cases with civil penalty stipulations resulting in $264,000 in fines. Administrative Law Judge decisions resolved another 96 cases resulting in an additional $644,000 in fines. High-priority and significant cases included several involving the sale of dogs and exotic animals by unlicensed dealers as well as numerous handling violations involving exhibition animals attacking and/or injuring the public. In one case, enforcement specialists processed four cases involving Continental Airlines' violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Continental Airlines is allegedly responsible for the death of one dog and injuries to two cats as a result of its failure to provide safe and secure primary enclosures for the animals during transportation. The cases will be referred to the Office of the General Counsel for a hearing with a recommended civil penalty of $8,750. Another case involved a decision and order issued to Cheryl Morgan, dba Exotic Pet Company, on July 6, 2006. The decision states that the respondent, her agents and employees cease and desist from violating the AWA, the regulations and standards. Ms. Morgan was also assessed a $16,280 civil penalty and both exhibitor and dealer licenses were revoked.

APHIS conducted 2 investigations in support of Biotechnology Regulatory Services in FY 2006. Three cases were resolved with civil penalty stipulations, resulting in the collection of $29,000 in fines. In one high profile case, Arborgen, Inc. agreed to pay $20,000 to settle their violations with APHIS. In addition, Arborgen agreed to hire a third-party auditor to review and improve their management of genetic identity in their inventory. Arborgen, Inc. was cited for an unauthorized release of genetically engineered trees that contained a gene not disclosed in their notification to APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services.

3. Biosurveillance

The biosurveillance program supports the development of a computer automated communication and information technology system that accomplishes real-time integration and analysis of human, animal, plant and environmental surveillance information. The program also supports data interpretation analyzed in the context of threat environment. The system will allow sharing of analysis product with Federal, State and local partners at the appropriate level of classification, and it will help guide outbreak and event responses.

APHIS is in the process of enhancing and upgrading the biosurveillance databases, in conjunction with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Simultaneously, APHIS is working with FSIS on the development of a system called the Food and Agriculture Biosurveillance Integration System (FABIS). FABIS is designed to allow the fusion of USDA collected biosurveillance information for analysis prior to sending the information to the DHS National Biosurveillance Integration System.

4. Emergency Management Systems

The Emergency Management Systems program strives to enhance APHIS animal health emergency preparedness efforts, including planning for the ability to mobilize and deploy resources at the first notice of an animal health incident. To better coordinate and prepare national level resources, APHIS continued to be involved in many interagency working groups related to emergency preparedness and response in FY 2006. These groups include the working group for the coordination of zoonotic disease surveillance, the U.S. Avian Influenza Joint Working Group, and the Center for Disease Control's Integrated Agency Wide coordination group. The Agency has also embarked on a detailed emergency management and foreign animal disease training needs assessment. The assessment will continue through FY 2007. The outcome of the assessment will allow APHIS to focus on the most critical training needs for employees and will enable APHIS and its partners to become increasingly better prepared to respond to animal health emergencies.

The program relies on APHIS Area Emergency Coordinators (AEC) to actively engage State, Tribal, local governments, and industries in advancing their emergency preparedness and response capabilities. APHIS continued its recruiting efforts to attract and retain highly qualified veterinarians for the AEC positions. APHIS currently has 17 AECs strategically located in the States that have the highest value animal agriculture industries. In FY 2006, 100 percent of States have demonstrated a systematic approach to evaluating the State's readiness to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies threatening or affecting their animal agriculture.

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) serves as a critical component of the Agency's emergency preparedness and response efforts. The NVS is designed to acquire, configure, and maintain critical veterinary surge materials to ensure the United States is effectively prepared to address multiple introductions of the most damaging livestock and poultry diseases. APHIS continues to refine its business practices using best practices and lessons learned from the Strategic National Stockpile, the human health equivalent of the stockpile. During the past year, the Agency progressed in establishing the NVS by procuring personal protective equipment for up to 3,000 responders for 40 days; establishing transportation and delivery contracts to ensure the materials can be delivered to an incident location within 24 hours; and acquiring a Foot-and-Mouth Disease antigen as well as 40 million doses of avian influenza vaccine. In addition, the program conducted two tabletop exercises in Georgia and North Carolina to identify NVS levels of material, supplies, and equipment resources needed in the event of multiple outbreaks.

5. High Pathogen Avian Influenza (HPAI)

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

As a lead technical Agency within the integrated U.S. Government response to HPAI worldwide, USDA is implementing a comprehensive program of activities that are directly aligned to the three pillars of the National Strategy: 1) Preparedness and Communication; 2) Surveillance and Detection; and 3) Response and Containment. The major activities include both emergency responses where U.S. specialists and resources are urgently needed to augment national efforts to combat HPAI in affected partner countries, as well as technical capacity building initiatives where USDA contributes towards the development of sustainable veterinary infrastructure to prevent, detect, and eradicate risky animal diseases like HPAI. USDA's major activities under each of the strategic pillars are summarized below.

Preparedness and Communication

USDA is collaborating with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to implement activities in high focus countries. In addition, USDA is delivering short-term technical advisers to partner countries on incident command structure and animal health aspects of their national HPAI response plans. USDA is also delivering workshops and short-term technical advisers on biosecurity standards at live bird markets abroad. USDA is undertaking collaborative research on animal vaccines and disseminating information on vaccines and their potential applications to reduce HPAI with partner countries. While HPAI has not yet directly affected U.S. producers, USDA is taking action to develop a foreign counterpart action plan using multiple scenarios, supporting adherence to OIE trade guidelines in case of a detection or outbreak of H5N1 influenza in the United States. USDA sent materials such as Personal Protective Equipment and special packing boxes to all its overseas offices to safely transport suspect AI samples to labs for diagnosis. In addition, USDA provided HPAI literature to various U.S. Embassies that requested the material. In the future, USDA will continue to perform its role of providing the knowledge and support necessary to assist other countries in their handling of AI.

Surveillance and Detection

USDA is delivering technical courses and short-term technical advisers to partner countries on laboratory protocols and proficiency to detect HPAI, field techniques for surveillance and necropsy of wild birds, and applied epidemiology of HPAI. In some cases, USDA is delivering specialized technical equipment and materials to augment partner countries' existing infrastructure for surveillance and detection of HPAI. Since February, USDA has conducted three international H5N1 Influenza Testing and Diagnostics Courses: two in Fort Collins, Colorado and one in Bangkok, Thailand. Four additional courses will be held within the next year in Senegal, Cairo, Egypt, Ethiopia and Ft. Collins. USDA plans on conducting an extensive series of seven epidemiology courses in Indonesia during the next year. USDA has deployed two real-time PCR machines, along with a consultant to train the local veterinarians, to Panama and Columbia and plans to install six more in Africa, the Middle East and Bolivia. USDA also deployed U.S. specialists to help participating counties – like Morocco, Romania, and Vietnam - to apply the course material to strengthen in-country animal health laboratories and testing programs. Earlier this year, after Senegalese specialists participated in one of these courses, USDA cooperated with Senegal to help prepare and deploy one of their participants to Cameroon, where he augmented Cameroon's animal health laboratory during that country's H5N1 emergency eradication efforts. This was a clear example of our how our international investments in veterinary infrastructure can have extensive benefits and, ultimately, alleviate "developing" countries ongoing reliance upon the United States. and directly contribute towards international efforts to combat influenza and other transboundary animal diseases. In March, USDA launched collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to assist Cambodia on its national program for surveillance of wild birds for H5N1. Local habitat makes Cambodia is a key country for surveillance of wild birds in Southeast Asia. In May, USDA collaborated with the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct national workshops in Vietnam and Cambodia on improvements to biosecurity and regulation of live bird markets. The workshop in Vietnam was crucial in helping launch an ongoing process to reform the national regulations covering issues like zoning, disinfection practices, and poultry surveillance. The dramatic progress in Vietnam offers Cambodia a local model to help reinforce their national effort to strengthen enforcement of biosecurity regulations for live bird markets. In June, USDA specialists visited China to plan a collaborative study on transmission of H5N1 between wild and domestic species along with options to strengthen biosecurity to prevent influenza. Each of these initiatives is critical to improve the accuracy and timeliness of H5N1 detection so that rapid response for effective local containment is feasible.

Response and Containment

USDA is collaborating with FAO to implement the Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases Crisis Management Center (CMC), a new facility for coordination of multilateral rapid response missions to contain and eradicate HPAI in affected countries. The CMC is already operational and there is an aggressive timeline to bring it to full capacity with an incident command structure over the course of this year. USDA is also deploying U.S. specialists for FAO-led rapid response missions. In addition, USDA is delivering technical specialists for bilateral United States Government rapid response missions. For

example, USDA provided diagnostics reagents to Senegal and Nigeria and plans to provide similar materials to Indonesia and Sudan soon. USDA completed AI mock outbreak simulations in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. USDA will conduct two Emergency Prep seminars for the Southern Cone in March and April.

DOMESTIC EFFORTS

USDA has taken action to prevent the accidental or intentional introduction of HPAI into the United States and ensure preparedness in the event of an outbreak. In addition to import restrictions and activities to prevent illegal entry of poultry and poultry products, a major component of the domestic program is surveillance, both in domestic poultry and wild birds. If HPAI is detected, USDA will implement a foreign animal disease emergency response.

Domestic Bird Surveillance and Diagnostics

There are four domestic areas of concentration: live bird marketing system, upland game, commercial surveillance outside of the live bird marketing system, and assistance to the broiler industry for expansion of AI surveillance in commercial operations through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). APHIS has entered into cooperative agreements with the States to conduct surveillance and diagnostic activities for these areas.

APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) will provide support to approved laboratories that will process samples submitted from the HPAI surveillance program. NVSL contracted with Charles River Laboratories to supply 10,000 sets of AI Agar Gel Immuno Diffusion reagents. The contract provides for one-half of the expected increased reagent demand; on-site production will provide for the remaining reagent demand.

Anti-Smuggling and Regulatory Enforcement

The Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) unit within APHIS conducts risk-management and anti-smuggling activities to prevent the unlawful entry and distribution of prohibited agricultural commodities and products that may harbor harmful diseases. The program has enhanced activities to further safeguard against AI, such as producing a survey of domestic markets that are likely to have avian related products imported illegally. Additionally, SITC has enhanced intelligence gathering by targeting likely shippers and importers of prohibited products. SITC conducted special operations and, in cooperation with Customs and Border Protection and other agencies, large scale inspection operations at ports of entry. As of October 2006, SITC's has surveyed over 5,000 domestic markets, contributed to twenty-one interdictions of prohibited HPAI products, and has identified sixteen importers entering these products into the United States.

The Investigation and Enforcement Services (IES) unit within APHIS supports other APHIS programs, Customs and Border Protection, and the State Departments of Agriculture to prevent the introduction and spread of AI. As a result of the enhanced efforts related to HPAI, the program is hiring investigators to address the increased number of referrals. The program held a national AI conference to train investigators and develop contingency plans to deploy personnel as needed in the event of an outbreak.

WILDLIFE SURVEILLANCE AND DIAGNOSTICS

Avian influenza surveillance in wild, migratory birds for the early detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus is on-pace to detect a possible disease incursion. Currently, the surveillance effort is being fully supported by all 50 State Wildlife Agencies in a cooperative effort to produce robust sample sizes from across the U.S. Purchase orders with over 45 National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories are efficiently and effectively allowing rapid diagnostic processing.

Surveillance in wild birds truly hinges on collecting a large number of samples due to a low probability of detection, so the following is provided to accurately frame the picture. As of October 2006, the total number of wild bird samples collected by USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services employees and biologists from the 50 State Wildlife agencies are as follows: Pacific flyway – 10,896; Central flyway – 9,134; Mississippi flyway – 12,300; and Atlantic flyway – 11,349. This total (43,679) is further expanded by the 29,210 environmental samples that have been collected and analyzed at Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center. The many, recent low pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus detections in wild birds are proof that the early detection methods are working well to protect American agriculture.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNICATION

Education and Outreach

APHIS planned an outreach and education campaign as part of an overall AI preparedness and response program that builds upon and expands the current "Biosecurity for the Birds" campaign. Specifically, the campaign expanded to target backyard poultry and pet bird owners, wildlife related groups, veterinarians, zoos, and the general public throughout the United States. The campaign also promote best practices in both the live bird marketing system and backyard flock owners in addition to its educational efforts of the U.S. commercial poultry industry.

APHIS awarded a contract for advertising, public relations, and marketing services to assist with expanding the current "Biosecurity for the Birds" campaign. APHIS is coordinating with other Agencies to ensure effective and non-duplicative outreach efforts. As a result of a partnership with the National FFA Organization, over 160 chapters across the country have distributed Biosecurity for the Birds informational materials and giveaways at poultry exhibits at State and county fairs this past year. APHIS is partnering with the Emergency and Community Health Outreach of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to produce a television program that aired on Minnesota public in seven languages (six plus English) on avian influenza and biosecurity. APHIS will provide this 10 minute program to other public television channels and other educational outlets in the future.

Data Modeling and Analysis, National Veterinary Stockpile, and Other Preparedness Activities

Immediate deployment of the supplies necessary to contain, control and eradicate an outbreak is the most effective way to halt the spread of the disease should an outbreak occur. USDA aims to ensure that systemic measures are in place to quickly contain HPAI and deploy the necessary veterinary resources within 24 hours of an adverse event. In support of this goal, APHIS will use an enhanced version of the North American Animal Disease Spread Model (NAADSM) to develop scenarios for HPAI. The NAADSM will evaluate the potential consequences of AI incursions in United States and North American poultry and determine optimal methods of control and countermeasures including reagents, vaccines, and other supplies and materials, to be included in the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) for such incursions.

In addition, APHIS identified strategies to enhance the Nation's ability to respond to an HPAI event. The strategies include providing advanced training for APHIS Incident Command teams; increasing the depth of animal health care professionals that could be called upon to respond to an animal disease event; and, conducting exercises with Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and non-government responders that simulate an HPAI event.

APHIS plans to hold numerous table-top exercises throughout the nation that will focus on HPAI, and will test the response capability to a variety of HPAI events. The outcomes of these exercises enable APHIS to further refine animal disease response plans. In addition, the exercises allow APHIS to gather information on how the NVS should be deployed and received at the incident site as well as to identify supplies, equipment, and materials and their amounts required to initiate on-the-ground disease control and disinfection activities. APHIS held table top exercises in North Carolina and Georgia to test NVS procedures with State personnel.

During the past year the NVS has procured a variety of items including, personal protective equipment for up to 3,000 people for 40 days, transportation and delivery contracts to ensure material can be delivered to an incident location within 24 hours, and 40 million doses of AI vaccine for poultry.

APHIS has engaged the assistance of a logistics management consulting firm to develop operational policies, procedures, and other support needed to build the NVS into a highly responsive support function for animal health emergencies. The consulting firm has worked closely in supporting development of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The knowledge and expertise this firm brings to APHIS will ensure that NVS operations are harmonized with the operations of the Strategic National Stockpile and bring uniformity in Federal operations.

Recognizing the threat posed to the domestic poultry by HPAI, APHIS has procured 40 million doses of killed virus vaccine. Authorization to use the vaccine will be on a case by case basis under the direction of the APHIS Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services.

APHIS has put a contract in place for the development and delivery of a table top exercise to up to 60 locations throughout the United States. This will enable States and Tribes to test the HPAI response plans. Information gathered from each of the exercises will be used to enhance the table top exercise as well as communicate lessons learned.

6. Pest Detection

APHIS and its State cooperators carry out surveys for high-risk pests through the Cooperative Agricultural Pests Survey (CAPS) network. In calendar year 2006, the program and its cooperators are targeting for survey 6 high-risk pests prioritized by the national CAPS committee and 29 other exotic pests with the potential to cause significant economic or environmental damage. As part of these efforts, 719 individual surveys are being carried out across the country.

In FY 2006, CAPS surveys resulted in the detection of several significant pests and diseases, including the first U.S. detection of the potato cyst nematode in Idaho. The early detection of this pest is allowing APHIS and its Idaho cooperators to implement a regulatory program to prevent the pest from spreading and conduct a national survey to document the extent of the outbreak, hopefully protecting U.S. potato exports from phytosanitary restrictions. CAPS surveys also found chrysanthemum white rust in Pennsylvania garden centers, where APHIS and Pennsylvania were able to eliminate it.

In FY 2006, the Pest Detection program also continued supporting an early warning system and public information website for soybean rust, which was used by 70 percent of soybean growers to track outbreaks of the disease. This early warning system allows producers to make informed decisions about whether to treat their fields for the disease or not, preventing the unnecessary use of fungicides in areas not at risk and saving producers time and money.

The program has begun developing commodity and resource-based surveys to monitor for the presence of a group of pests that threaten a specific commodity or resource. These surveys will allow us to gather data about a larger number of pests and establish better baseline data about pests that have recently been introduced in the United States. In FY 2006, the program drafted manuals for three commodity surveys, including soybeans, small grains, and oak trees. In FY 2006, APHIS continued the Exotic Wood Borer and Bark Beetle survey in 27 States, targeting destination sites for solid wood packing materials associated with foreign cargo. In FY 2007, the program plans to implement citrus commodity surveys in citrus-producing States.

The Pest Detection program also works with USDA's Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) and network of Extension agents to raise awareness of exotic pests among their employees and ensure they know to contact APHIS in the event of an exotic pest detection. NPDN scientists and Extension agents may be the first ones to be

alerted if a citizen or a State department of agriculture official finds an out-of-the-ordinary pest. These efforts paid off in FY 2006 when a consumer report of insect contaminants in a soup mix lead to the detection of the exotic stored grain pest, khapra beetle, which is considered to be one of the most destructive pests of grain products and seeds. CSREES contacted APHIS to confirm the identification and take action. APHIS and State cooperators inspected the home in Connecticut where the beetle was found and collected numerous live khapra beetle larvae. All food items in the home capable of supporting this pest were destroyed. Additionally, the New York based soup mix manufacturer voluntarily recalled affected lots of soup mix.

The Pest Detection program is measuring its success through tracking the percentage of significant pest introductions, or those that have the potential to cause severe economic and environmental damage, before they spread from the original area of colonization. For FY 2006, the program's target was to detect 95 percent of such introductions prior to their spread while, the data to verify our performance is not yet complete because surveys are conducted through the fall in States with warmer climates, we believe the program is on track to meet the target.

7. Select Agents

On March 18, 2005, the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Possession, Use, and Transfer of Biological Agents and Toxins; Final Rule was published in the Federal Register. Currently, the Agricultural Select Agent Program has registered 76 entities. Six new applications were received in 2006.

Additionally, APHIS provided 142 reviews/responses to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Select Agent Program (CDC SAP) regarding registrations, amendments, and renewals pertaining to USDA-only agents that are (or will be) possessed, used, or transferred by entities that will be or are registered with the CDC.

APHIS and the CDC continue to work on the development of the National Select Agent Registry (NSAR). This is a single, Web-enabled system that will allow stakeholders to interact with both agencies and that will facilitate maximum interagency collaboration and program management efficiency. A memorandum of understanding on the management of the NSAR and an agreement regarding an interagency change control board were developed during FY 2006. The interagency change control board is a working group made up of users of the database that will aid in developing a user-friendly National Select Agents Registry database.

By the end of FY 2006, APHIS had built a full-time, qualified staff to work on the priorities set forth by the Select Agents program. Among other things, APHIS filled a compliance position to ensure that those entities in possession of USDA-only or USDA/CDC overlap agents are fully compliant with the regulations. Additionally, the program reorganized to allow for an Assistant Director position that will provide greater coordination and oversight for the program.

In FY 2006, there were zero events (thefts, losses, or releases of biological agents from a regulated entity) involving agricultural select agents that can be traced to insufficient regulatory oversight.

PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Current Activities: The programs within this component minimize risks to agricultural production, natural resources, and human health and safety by effectively managing agricultural pests and diseases, and wildlife damage in the United States. APHIS cooperates with States to protect 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 coordinates several programs that control or eradicate plant pest and diseases. Eradication programs include Asian longhorned beetle, citrus canker, emerald ash borer, and witchweed. In addition, the Agency conducts risk-based management activities to prevent the spread of glassy-winged sharpshooter, golden nematode, grasshoppers, gypsy moth, imported fire ants, noxious weeds, and pink bollworm. In both eradication and control programs, APHIS develops and enforces quarantines to restrict the movement of hazardous pests and diseases. The Agency also conducts a biological control program, using natural enemies of pests, diseases, or weeds to provide cost-effective, environmentally friendly pest control. APHIS conducts disease control and eradication programs involving testing, quarantine, treatment, and depopulation of infected animals. Examples include brucellosis, chronic wasting disease, Johne's disease, low pathogen avian influenza, pseudorabies, scrapie, and tuberculosis. The Wildlife Services program protects American agriculture from predators through identification, demonstration, and application of control measures.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

1. Aquaculture

During FY 2006, APHIS provided wildlife damage management assistance to aquaculture producers in 20 States. This includes assistance to anglers, baitfish and crawfish producers, catfish farmers, fish hatcheries, and tropical fish producers. A growing concern of the aquaculture industry is damage caused by the double-crested cormorants by consuming fish production. A common migratory route of the cormorants begins in the Great Lakes Area and ends in the delta region of the Mississippi, major areas for sport fisheries and catfish production. APHIS dispersed 307,179 cormorants from nearby aquaculture facilities, 64 percent more than last year. APHIS also moved 76 cormorant roosts from nearby aquaculture facilities to protect producers. APHIS conducted most of these activities in the southeastern States. However, our Agency officials in Washington dispersed 29,274 cormorants to protect trout production hatcheries.

APHIS teamed up with the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a system to monitor non-migratory populations of cormorants in the primary catfish production areas in the southeastern States. These non-migratory cormorants, along with the migratory population, may increase the negative impact to catfish producers. In addition, APHIS and the Department of the Interior's National Park Service initiated a cooperative study to determine which bird species are capable of spreading whirling disease, an exotic parasitic disease that affects salmon and trout and has recently become established in natural waters where it is causing heavy mortalities in several sport-fishing rivers.

APHIS also continued work on the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) to protect U.S. wild and cultured aquatic animal resources from foreign pathogens; support effective aquaculture; achieve efficient and predictable commerce; and meet national and international trade obligations. The NAAHP will provide an overarching structure to help APHIS determine which aquatic health issues are of concern and how to manage these issues. APHIS and its cooperators finalized four chapters of the plan, which include the introduction; definitions; roles and responsibilities of various government agencies and stakeholders; and diseases of concern. An executive oversight committee is currently reviewing three other chapters, which include surveillance; disease control and management; and research and development. In FY 2007, APHIS plans to complete three more chapters (education, outreach, and implementation) of the NAAHP. By doing so, APHIS will be on track to meet its deadline of completing a full draft of the plan by June 2007.

During FY 2006, APHIS also convened a working group meeting to discuss research priorities related to aquatic animal health and supported a cooperative agreement with Cornell University to gather data about viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), an emerging disease issue. In FY 2007, APHIS will continue to address animal health and trade issues related to VHS.

2. Biological Control

APHIS uses biological control organisms to safeguard America's agricultural production and natural ecosystems from economic losses caused by insects, other arthropods, nematodes, weeds, and diseases of regulatory significance, while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. Biological control is a key component of integrated pest management strategies that utilizes living organisms, such as natural enemies and competitors, to effectively mitigate the impacts of exotic, invasive insect pests, weeds, and plant pathogens, while minimizing the impacts that control tactics for these pests may have on the environment and non-target organisms. Biological control agents survive and reproduce in ecosystems and become self-sustaining; little or no additional cost is involved after successful agent introductions.

In 2006, the Biological Control program continued projects addressing 37 invasive insect pests and weeds, including field implementation programs releasing biological control agents against 13 insect pests and 12 weeds and foreign exploration to identify natural enemies and conduct pre-release tests for 5 new insect and 7 new weed biological control targets. Once APHIS program officials develop successful rearing and release techniques for a particular biological control agent, the program's goal is to transfer the technology to cooperators for ongoing management of the targeted weed or insect. This allows the program to concentrate its efforts on new target species. In FY 2006, APHIS exceeded its performance targets for transferring technology to cooperators for giant salvinia and Dalmatian toadflax. Accomplishments for selected target species are reported below.

Giant Salvinia

In FY 2006, APHIS transferred its successful rearing and release program for the biological control agent for giant salvinia (the salvinia weevil) to Federal and State agencies involved in managing this aquatic weed. Giant salvinia was first reported in Texas and Louisiana in 1998 and has now invaded waterways in 10 additional states. It covers water surfaces with dense mats, blocking sunlight and altering oxygen levels, and blocks irrigation systems. Between 2002 and 2005, APHIS and cooperators conducted releases of the weevil throughout most infested states. Evaluations of its impact at six study sites demonstrated that the agent can reduce population levels of giant salvinia to less than 10 percent of the original infestation size in 3 to 5 years.

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

In FY 2006, the program continued its successful use of biological control for the pink hibiscus mealybug (PHM), which attacks more than 200 plant species, including numerous agricultural crops, forest trees, and ornamental plants. First detected in California in 1999 and Florida in 2002, populations of this pest have been kept well below economically damaging levels through the use of biological control. Economic impact studies indicate that the pest could cause up to $750 million in damages to agricultural and ornamental plant industries if it became established with no effective control. APHIS initiated biological control efforts in the Caribbean in 1996 to prepare for its imminent arrival in the United States. Because of these offshore preparedness efforts, the program was able to implement biological control programs using two parasitic wasps as soon as the pest was detected. In California, the isolated infestation is under complete control and has not required additional releases of the parasitoids since 2004. In Florida, the PHM is also under control, but the greater distribution of host plants has allowed the pest to spread. In 2006, 625,000 wasps of the two species were released in 15 newly infested counties in the State. A new infestation of PHM was also detected near New Orleans in September 2006, and the program initiated releases of the parasitoids in early October.

Saltcedars

The program also continued the effort began in FY 2005 to implement a biological control program targeting saltcedars, *Tamarix* spp., a group of shrubs or small trees native to Europe and Asia. Saltcedars are estimated to infest more than 1.5 million acres in the western United States, where they compete with native species and agricultural production for water resources. A recent study estimated that saltcedar-related losses exceed $100 million annually. The program is releasing a leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongate,* which defoliates and eventually kills saltcedar trees. To date, 40 releases, consisting of more than 90,000 adult leaf beetles, have been made in nine western states, including Nebraska, Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, and Wyoming. An ongoing monitoring program is documenting the beetle's population growth and its impact on saltcedar trees and any other plants.

Tropical Soda Apple

The program also continued its effort to fight tropical soda apple (TSA), an exotic weed that has invaded agricultural land and natural ecosystems in the southeastern United States, with biological control agents. Originally found in Florida, TSA has now been reported in at least 10 other states. TSA affects the quality of pasture for cattle and other animals and serves as a host and reservoir for at least 6 viruses of cultivated crops. In cooperation with the University of Florida, the program is releasing a leaf-feeding beetle to target the weed. Efforts started with 2,000 beetles in two Florida counties in 2003 and were expanded to include more than 20 counties in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama by the end of FY 2006. Efforts to monitor the impact and spread of the beetles are ongoing; however, initial results are encouraging. APHIS is currently reviewing three additional biological control agents to target TSA.

3. Brucellosis

FY 2006 began and ended with 48 States and three Territories classified at Brucellosis Class Free state status, and two states classified at Brucellosis Class A state status. The two states classified as Class A at the beginning of FY 2006 were Texas and Wyoming. The two states classified as Class A at the end of FY 2006 were Texas and Idaho. From February 2006 to September 2006, three states—Idaho, Texas, and Wyoming—were classified as Class A. Idaho lost its Brucellosis Class Free state status pursuant to the disclosure of two brucellosis affected herds in November 2005, and Wyoming met all requirements and officially regained Class Free state status in September 2006. Texas released its last known brucellosis affected herd from quarantine in September 2006, completing a twelve-consecutive month period without disclosing any additional brucellosis affected herds. Thus at the end of FY 2006, 48 States and three Territories remain classified at Brucellosis Class Free state status. All states except Texas remain classified as Stage III (Free) for swine brucellosis; Texas remains classified at Stage II.

Two brucellosis affected cattle herds, both in Idaho, were disclosed in FY 2006. The first affected herd was identified via Market Cattle Identification (MCI) surveillance testing, and the second affected herd was identified as an epidemiologic trace-out herd. The national herd prevalence rate for bovine brucellosis was 0.00021 percent in FY 2006. Per the Brucellosis Emergency Action Plan (BEAP) recommendation, both brucellosis affected herds were depopulated with indemnity, and thorough epidemiologic investigations were completed disclosing no additional brucellosis affected herds. In addition, trace exposed test negative cattle were depopulated and indemnified as well. Feral swine infected with brucellosis continue to pose a significant risk to transitional swine herds in several states. Nine brucellosis affected swine herds were depopulated with indemnity in FY 2006. One herd was located in South Carolina and the remainder of the nine were in Texas. All were smaller herds with direct or indirect exposure to feral swine.

Maintaining Brucellosis state status focuses on continual surveillance activities. Two primary surveillance activities are conducted for bovine brucellosis, Market Cattle Identification (MCI) testing and Brucellosis Milk Surveillance Testing (BMST). During FY 2006, APHIS tested approximately 7.921 million head of cattle under the MCI surveillance program. Brucellosis program standards require testing of a minimum of 95 percent of all test-eligible slaughter cattle. In FY 2006, approximately 96.04 percent of all test-eligible

slaughter cattle were tested. First-point testing at livestock markets is required in Brucellosis Class A states. Twelve Brucellosis Class Free states continue to conduct first-point testing at markets to enhance their surveillance activities. Brucellosis program standards require a minimum of 90 percent successful traceback of all MCI reactor cattle and a minimum of 95 percent successful case closure. In FY 2006, approximately 97.2 percent of all MCI reactors were successfully traced and investigated resulting in successful case closures. Approximately 868,500 additional head of cattle were tested on farms or ranches during FY 2006, bringing the total cattle tested for brucellosis in FY 2006 to approximately 8.790 million head. BMST surveillance is conducted in all commercial dairies – a minimum of two times per year in Class Free states and a minimum of four times per year in Class A States. Suspicious BMSTs are followed up with an epidemiologic investigation. For 2005, the National Agricultural Statistics indicate there were 78,295 dairy operations in the United States. There were approximately 164,000 BMSTs conducted in FY 2006; approximately 186 of those BMSTs yielded suspicious results after repeated screening. All suspicious BMSTs in FY 2006 were confirmed negative by subsequent epidemiologic investigations and additional herd testing.

APHIS continues to recognize the importance of cooperating with the Federal and State agencies in management of the wild bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). The Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) agreed on a new Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was submitted to the Governors of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho in 2005 for their review and concurrence. APHIS updated the MOU in July 2006 and submitted it to DOI for its concurrence. If DOI concurs with the updated MOU, it will be resubmitted to the GYA Governors for their review and concurrence. USDA and DOI are continuing to evaluate use of vaccines and methods of vaccine delivery in the Yellowstone National Park. In FY 2006, APHIS continued its involvement in several on-going developmental projects such as the bison quarantine feasibility study, brucellosis transmission studies in bison and elk, and immunocontraceptive studies.

APHIS works closely with DOI's National Park Service (NPS) to maintain a viable bison population and prevent transmission of brucellosis to domestic livestock. The ultimate goal is to eradicate *Brucella abortus* from wild elk and bison in the GYA. APHIS VS personnel assisted with Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) management operations. In FY 2006, hazing operations of 1,317 bison were performed. All but 100 bison were successfully hazed back into Yellowstone National Park. Capture operations resulted in the capture of 995 bison. Nine bison tested brucellosis negative and released. Eighty six brucellosis seronegative calves were placed in the brucellosis quarantine feasibility study facility. Fifty brucellosis seropositive bison and 850 untested bison were shipped to slaughter. Under the IBMP protocol, bison may be shipped to slaughter if the Yellowstone National Park bison herd population is greater than 3000. Seven bison were lethally removed.

4. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

APHIS has developed a Herd Certification Program (HCP) in consultation with States, the farmed cervid industry, and the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) to support Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) efforts. The proposed APHIS HCP rule was published for public comment in December 2003, and the final rule was published on July 21, 2006. Subsequent to publication, three petitions were received from organizations representing State agencies and officials. The petitions challenged Federal preemption language and certain interstate movement provisions in the final rule and requested a delay in implementation. APHIS believes the issues raised merit further discussion. On September 8, 2006, APHIS published a notice to delay implementation of the rule and on November 3, 2006, published the petitions for public comment. APHIS will review these comments and then decide what changes, if any, are necessary in the rule to implement it as the State-Federal-industry cooperative program it is intended to be.

The APHIS HCP will "grandfather" existing State programs that have the necessary authorities and meet or exceed national program standards for surveillance, inventory, identification, and fencing. Once the

program is implemented, captive cervid owners can participate in their approved State program or they can participate directly in the national program if no approved State program exists. Interstate movement of animals will be dependent on participation in the program, and additions to herds can impact herd status.

Farmed cervids tested in FY 2006 totaled 14,913. This decrease from 15,628 tests in FY 2005 may reflect a slight contraction in the size of the industry, as indicated by recent inventory data from the North American Elk Breeders Association. The amount of testing may increase as the HCP is implemented.

The program continues to build cooperative partnerships with other Federal Agencies, the States and Tribes, and the cervid industry through presentations and discussions at multiple meetings throughout the year. APHIS CWD and Scrapie program managers work jointly to present an annual Transmittable Spongiform Encephalopathy epidemiology course at Ames, Iowa.

5. Emerging Plant Pests (EPP)

In FY 2006, APHIS had the following funds available for the Emerging Plant Pests (dollars in thousands):

Asian Longhorned Beetle	Citrus Canker/ Citrus Health	Glassy-Winged Sharp Shooter	*Phytophthora ramorum/Sudden Oak Death*	Emerald Ash Borer	Karnal Bunt	Olive Fruit Fly	Hydrilla	Other	Total
$19,859	$36,371	$24,079	$3,055	$9,930	$1,489	$312	$495	$3,625	$99,215

For FY 2006, APHIS established a performance target of having only two EPP programs escaping the quarantine area. The Agency did not meet this goal, as the Citrus Canker/Citrus Health, *Phytophthora ramorum (P. ramorum/Sudden Oak Death),* and Emerald Ash Borer programs experienced outbreaks outside of the quarantine area. Citrus canker spread beyond existing quarantined areas primarily because of the effects of the unprecedented 2004 hurricane season. New Citrus Canker outbreaks were found on a regular basis in FY 2006. The *P. ramorum* program detected an outbreak of the disease in Oregon that extended 11 square miles beyond the quarantine zone. However, the overall distribution of the disease has been reduced in Oregon and the program is succeeding. APHIS regulations are directed toward preventing the long-distance spread of *P. ramorum*. With the exception of the 11 square miles in Oregon, these regulations have prevented the establishment of SOD outside the quarantined areas on the West Coast. Regarding the EAB program, APHIS, the Forest Service, and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continue to develop technologies to improve pest detection, response, and recovery. Regulations for quarantined areas are designed to prevent long-distance spread of EAB. However, these regulations can only be effective if the public refrains from moving prohibited items.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

In FY 2006, APHIS had approximately $23 million available for ALB eradication -- $20 million in appropriated funds and $3 million in carryover funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). In New York State, the program continued ground surveys in Manhattan, and area-wide treatments in Manhattan, Western Queens, and Brooklyn. Efforts in Manhattan are preventing ALB from spreading to the prime hardwood forests in the northeastern United States. The New York quarantine encompasses 132 square miles and covers most of Manhattan as well as parts of northern Brooklyn, western Queens, and eastern Queens in New York City as well as Islip and an area on the Nassau/Suffolk county line in Long Island. Both survey and treatment activities are conducted in bands working from west to east in New York City, and east to west in Long Island. The program expects to declare all of New York eradicated by FY 2034. In Illinois, the program deregulated the final nine square miles of the quarantine in July 2006. Surveys will continue through FY 2007 to confirm eradication, which is anticipated in FY 2008. In New Jersey, program officials will conduct surveys in FY 2007 to verify eradication in the Jersey City/Hoboken outbreak area some time in FY 2008. In addition, the program conducted surveys and treatments in the Middlesex/Union Counties area toward expected eradication in FY 2012. The New Jersey quarantine area currently encompasses 25 square miles-covering areas in seven municipalities: the Borough of Carteret, the Avenel Section of Woodbridge Township, the City of Linden, the City of Rahway, Elizabeth City, the

Borough of Roselle, and Clark Township. In FY 2006, the ALB program met its target of limiting the regulated area to 157 square miles.

Citrus Canker / Citrus Health

As FY 2006 began, APHIS and the State of Florida were continuing an accelerated citrus canker eradication program to counter the effects of the unprecedented 2004 hurricane season. Although this program made substantial progress in a short time, Hurricane Wilma struck in late October, spreading the disease further. Based on the devastating effects of this hurricane and the level of inoculum present when the storm hit, APHIS concluded in early January 2006 that citrus canker was too widely distributed to be eradicated. On January 10, 2006, Secretary Johanns announced a shift in this program's goal from eradication to management.

On March 7, 2006, after consulting with State and industry officials, USDA issued the draft Citrus Health Response Plan (CHRP) as an alternative to eradication. This plan is designed to: (1) protect the Florida citrus industry from citrus pests and diseases of regulatory significance and ensure its sustainability; (2) prevent the spread of canker and citrus greening to other citrus-producing States; and, (3) preserve U.S. interstate and international citrus markets. To reach these goals, the program plans to: (1) develop methods to produce asymptomatic fruit where citrus diseases exist; (2) identify minimum production standards for producing fruit suitable for trade; and, (3) protect the citrus nursery and budwood certification programs. The key components of the CHRP include: (1) biosecurity measures to minimize disease transfer through clothing and equipment; (2) registration of all citrus producers, production units, nurseries, budwood facilities, harvesters, and packing houses; (3) production of certified nursery stock in enclosed, insect-resistant structures; (4) inspection of all nursery stock before shipment so it can be certified as disease-free; (5) pre-harvest inspection of all citrus; (6) commercial surveillance by APHIS officials and thorough self-survey by grove owners to identify any new disease infections; and, (7) oversight of commercial packinghouse operations by APHIS personnel. APHIS is currently reviewing the draft CHRP.

During FY 2006, the program continued surveys targeting canker and greening in commercial citrus groves. These surveys indicated that greening does not appear to be widely established in Florida. In addition, the program continued regulatory oversight of fruit certification for shipment to interstate and international trading partners. The program also conducted quality control surveys to confirm findings of grove surveys at harvest. In August 2006, USDA imposed a statewide quarantine on fresh Florida citrus fruit shipped to six other citrus-producing States. This action restricts the certification of fresh citrus fruit for shipment to non-citrus producing States only, as well as to foreign trade partners whose regulations permit the importation of citrus from areas known to have canker. APHIS continued to evaluate asymptomatic citrus fruit as a pathway for the introduction of canker. In addition, APHIS and the State of Florida developed a nursery certification program to enable nurseries to produce certified, disease-free citrus plants. This program involves re-locating a Budwood Production Facility to a disease-free area, and stipulating how greenhouses must be constructed to best prevent disease spread. In July 2006, the Florida legislature passed a law mandating that citrus nursery stock be produced in certified citrus nurseries.

In FY 2006, the program met its target by preventing detections of citrus pests and diseases outside Florida.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Using funding from both the Emerging Plant Pests line item and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in FY 2006, APHIS continued working with Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana to address EAB through intensive survey and regulatory activities. APHIS also responded to the first detection of this pest in Illinois in June 2006 and the re-emergence of the pest in Maryland, where an isolated infestation was thought to have been eradicated. At the end of the year, more than 24,500 square miles (mostly in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and northern Ohio and Indiana) were under quarantine to help prevent the artificial spread of EAB, and the program had confirmed detections of the pest outside the general infestation in 24 new counties, including two in Illinois, meeting its performance target of no more than 25 new detections outside the infested area.

In FY 2006, APHIS conducted thorough surveys of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, covering more than 97,000 square miles with nearly 17,000 detection trap trees (trees that have been girdled to release volatile chemicals attractive to the beetle). Program officials will continue to collect and examine these trees through winter 2007. The program also conducted detection surveys in States at risk for EAB introductions, such as Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and delimiting surveys at the sites of the Illinois and Maryland infestations. APHIS will continue efforts to determine the extent of the Illinois outbreak. The Maryland infestation is related to the FY 2004 detection of the pest at a nursery that had received infested ash nursery stock from Michigan. Program officials believe they have found the source of the current outbreak and plan to remove all host trees in the area this winter. Virginia also experienced an isolated EAB infestation in FY 2004; continuing surveys indicate that eradication activities were successful at this site.

To prevent further artificial spread of the pest, the program regulates EAB host materials such as logs, firewood, and nursery stock. In FY 2006, APHIS maintained 217 compliance agreements with businesses that deal with host materials and conducted 586 regulatory inspections. Through its inspections and outreach to regulated entities, the program achieved a high compliance rate in FY 2006; only one business was found to be in violation of the terms of its agreement with APHIS and suspended for several months until it could demonstrate compliance. The program also conducted an intensive outreach campaign in the summer of 2006 to reach residents and travelers in and near affected areas and warn them of the risk of spreading EAB through firewood.

Because EAB was unknown before its first U.S. detection in 2002, the program has been limited by the lack of an effective trap and practical, cost-effective control tools. However, APHIS and cooperating scientists have identified several promising chemical treatments and biological control agents, and program officials believe several treatment options will be available by FY 2009. Until these treatment options are available, the program is concentrating on the survey, regulatory, and outreach activities described above.

Glassy-Winged Sharp Shooter (GWSS)

This program works to minimize the Statewide impact of Pierce's Disease (PD) and its vectors in California, and reduce GWSS populations without significantly affecting agricultural production areas. The GWSS is established in eight California counties (Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Tulare, and Ventura). In FY 2006, APHIS continued working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on a Statewide management program involving survey and regulatory activities, nursery stock inspections, and research and control activities. In agricultural areas with detectable GWSS populations, the program conducted area-wide management programs in Kern, Riverside, Tulare, and Ventura Counties. The programs were highly successful in these major citrus-producing areas. In addition, the program continued to encourage California wine grape growers to support the program. APHIS' success at controlling GWSS and PD relies heavily on grower participation and cooperation.

In FY 2006, the program applied area-wide treatments to 16,706 acres of citrus in Kern, Riverside, and Tulare Counties. Forty-nine nursery shipments destined to un-infested counties in California were intercepted because they included a GWSS life stage. This compares to 83 intercepted in FY 2005. Any rejection/egg mass find impacts the nursery industry significantly both through the regulations as well as how a rejection appears to the wine grape industry and others when a nursery becomes an offender. Some nurseries have even stopped shipping to northern California because they deem it too costly for them to have a shipment rejected.

Since its inception in FY 2000, this program has reduced GWSS populations enormously and halted the northern movement of the pest. Although insects are still occasionally found north of the infested counties, they are generally found in new urban plantings or in nursery stock shipments. The CDFA arranges for these areas to be treated, and mitigates these finds. In addition to the work in California, APHIS transferred $1.2 million to Texas A&M University through a cooperative agreement to enable researchers to continue a vector and disease research program in the GWSS' natural habitat in Texas. This research will benefit

grape growers in both Texas and California. The research program has made significant progress in Texas in identifying: supplemental hosts of the *Xylella fastidiosa* strain causing PD, the vectors involved in carrying PD (including GWSS), biological control agents effective against GWSS, the genetic diversity of *X. fastidiosa* strains in Texas, the relative tolerance of various grape rootstocks to PD, patterns of disease spread within vineyards, and the statewide survey and Geographic Information Service mapping of Texas vineyards and disease incidence. These and other research activities promote better understanding of this complex host-disease-vector triangle and may lead to a cure for PD.

This program's performance measure is the number of adult detections per trap in a particular county. In FY 2006, APHIS projected targets of less than one for Kern County, less than 1.5 in Tulare County, and less than 10 in Ventura County. The actual data revealed 1.11, 0.46, and 51.98 respectively. The Ventura County figure is so large primarily because growers are reluctant to support a full, continual program that includes chemical spraying.

Phytophthora ramorum (P. ramorum) / Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

In FY 2006, APHIS had $9.3 million to prevent introductions or re-introductions of *P. ramorum* into non-infested areas; eradicate this pathogen in infested nursery systems and forests, where practical; manage heavily infested forests and urban landscapes to minimize spread and mitigate damage; and protect the nation's landscape, the ecosystems that oaks support, and the economic livelihood of several industries from huge potential losses. The $9.3 million total consisted of $6.3 million in carryover funds from the CCC, and $3 million in appropriated funds. Since its inception in FY 2002, the program's quarantine measures have protected the United States from *P. ramorum* by preventing the interstate movement of infested nursery stock and plant products from these areas. The risk of *P. ramorum* spread is significant and affects APHIS' ability to regulate the interstate movement of nursery stock. If detected outside the West Coast, APHIS and the U.S. Forest Service would take eradication or management action, as appropriate. Since January 2006, APHIS has confirmed 58 positive detections of *P. ramorum* associated with nursery plants from 11 States: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Of the 58 total, 40 resulted from the Federal Order and annual cleanliness compliance surveys (20 in California, 13 in Oregon, and 7 in Washington); 7 resulted from trace-backs and trace-forwards; 6 resulted from the National Survey; and 5 were detected during truck inspections, at reported nurseries, or during site visits.

The 58 positive sites means that the number of positive sites has decreased by approximately 40 percent in each of the last two years. This is evidence that the additional conditions on the movement of plants out of the West put into place at the end of 2004 have been successful. Therefore, the nursery system is becoming clean of *P. ramorum* and the program is moving toward the goal of shrinking the area under regulation back to the quarantine area. In FY 2006, the *P. ramorum* program detected an SOD outbreak in Oregon outside the quarantine zone. Overall, though, APHIS reduced the distribution of the disease in Oregon. With the exception of the outbreak in Oregon, APHIS prevented the establishment of SOD outside the quarantined areas on the West Coast.

Also in FY 2006, APHIS continued enforcing the Federal Order to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum* to non-infested areas of the United States. The Order requires all nurseries in California, Oregon, and Washington to obtain certification that any plants they are shipping originated in a nursery which has been inspected and found to contain no evidence of *P. ramorum*. In addition, the Order restricts the interstate movement of nursery stock from virtually all commercial nurseries in regulated areas. The Order, which expires at the end of FY 2007, is a short-term measure to reassure markets while giving inspectors time to detect and eradicate *P. ramorum* in West Coast nurseries. To ensure clean stock and maintain markets after the Order expires, APHIS is partnering with the nursery industry to develop a *P. ramorum* Management Program. If there is still a demonstrated risk of *P. ramorum* spread at that time, the Agency will extend the Order. However, APHIS will not impose a regulatory burden on the industry or on State Departments of Agriculture, or a cost on taxpayers unless such is biologically warranted.

For FY 2006, the program set a target of 66 confirmed positive finds in non-quarantined areas in the environment. The program achieved more favorable results by confirming only 59 positive finds.

Karnal Bunt (KB):
KB is a wheat disease that affects the $5 billion U.S. wheat export market through phytosanitary restrictions enforced against wheat producers. Because the United States exports one-third of the world's wheat exports, KB establishment would cause severe economic disruption. Over 70 countries ban wheat imports from KB-infected regions. Therefore, APHIS works to convince trading partners that KB presents only a grade and quality issue, and not a phytosanitary risk requiring quarantines. KB is not a quarantine pest since it has only minimal effect on wheat quality and yield, and cannot establish itself in every climatic condition. In FY 2006, APHIS amended the KB regulation to allow a field to qualify for de-regulation after 5 cumulative years of specified management practices. These changes will allow the deregulation of 288,000 areas in San Saba, McCulloch and Archer Counties, and the reduction of 210,000 acres in Baylor, Knox, Throckmorton, and Young Counties, which are all located in Texas. The changes will also allow the deregulation of 8,800 acres in Arizona. APHIS also added 5,215 acres in Maricopa County, Arizona, and 5,085 acres in Pinal County, Arizona, to the regulated area to prevent KB from spreading into non-infected areas. In addition, the program deregulated 3,802 acres in Maricopa County. In late FY 2006, APHIS published an interim rule to deregulate areas in Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Arizona, and Archer, Baylor, Knox, McCulloch, San Saba, Throckmorton, and Young Counties, Texas. This rule became effective upon signature. There are no longer any regulated areas in Archer, McCulloch, and San Saba Counties. In addition, the regulated area in each of the four remaining regulated Texas counties and in two of the three regulated Arizona counties is reduced. Deregulation is enabling producers to move regulated articles without restrictions. In addition, producers in these areas may receive higher prices or have a broader sales base for their wheat. Deregulation may also increase marketing opportunities for producers among buyers who perceive the wheat is now of higher quality. During FY 2006, no KB was detected from the national survey or surveys of regulated areas.

6. Golden Nematode

APHIS works to prevent potatoes and other solanaceous plants from being infested with golden nematode and to control the pest in known infested areas. The program facilitates international and interstate agricultural shipments by maintaining a risk-based management system.

The golden nematode was first detected in the United States in Long Island, New York in 1941. Through an effective regulatory and control strategy, the program has successfully confined the infestation to 6,185 acres in nine counties. Many countries prohibit the importation of potatoes and other commodities from regions infested with golden nematode; however, the cooperative State-Federal program has protected even most of New York State from trade restrictions. Annually, potato, tomato, and eggplant crops contribute $80 million to New York's economy and $5.7 billion to the nation's economy.

The Golden Nematode program conducts a State-wide survey of New York each year of all areas used for potato production, enabling the export and interstate shipment of a variety of agricultural. In calendar year 2005, the program collected 7,247 soil samples from 4,118 acres in the State. Surveys did not show up evidence of any new detections anywhere in the State.

APHIS prevents the golden nematode from spreading through regulatory requirements for the cleaning of all equipment that comes into contact with soil in infested areas and a mandatory crop rotation schedule for infested areas used in potato production. The program maintains personnel on standby to clean farm equipment whenever needed in order to allow potato producers to continue time-sensitive processes such as harvest while protecting uninfested areas. In FY 2006, the program conducted 712 regulatory treatments, surpassing its target by 246 (due in part to a farmer going out of business and needing to clean all equipment before selling it at auction).

In addition to cleaning requirements for equipment, APHIS requires that producers on affected land use a 4-year crop rotation schedule designed to keep golden nematode population levels to a low, manageable level. The schedule requires that growers plant golden nematode-resistant potato varieties for 2 consecutive years (followed by a non-host crop and then any potato variety, before starting again with 2 years of resistant varieties). To ensure that marketable golden nematode-resistant varieties are available, the Agency provides funding (along with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the New York Department of Agriculture and Marketing) for the development of new potato varieties at Cornell University. With the addition of four new golden nematode-resistant potato varieties in FY 2006, growers have 45 varieties from which to choose. Of the new varieties developed in FY 2006, one is resistant to both pathotypes of the golden nematode found in New York and another has natural insect resistance, an important trait for organic potato production.

Based on its success in containing the golden nematode for more than 60 years, the program is serving as a model for both the response to the newly detected potato cyst nematode in Idaho and the Canadian response to the golden nematode detection in Quebec.

7. Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket

The Plant Protection Act authorizes APHIS to cooperate with Federal land management agencies, State agencies, and private landowners to control grasshoppers and Mormon crickets on western rangelands. The Plant Protection Act also specifies that APHIS pays for the full cost of conducting treatments on Federal lands, 50 percent of the cost on State lands, and one-third of the cost on privately owned lands. Surveys are an essential first step in determining the species and extent of grasshopper infestations and whether there is a need for suppression treatments. APHIS conducts surveys in the spring to pinpoint areas that may need treatments later in the season. These surveys begin in February or early March, when Mormon crickets and grasshoppers start to hatch. APHIS also conducts fall, or adult insect, surveys and uses the data to produce hazard maps that indicate which areas may have high populations the next year. We provide these maps to State cooperators and academic researchers and use the information to plan for outbreaks that may develop in the next year. In FY 2006, APHIS covered 45,762 survey points in the 17 western, rangeland States.

Surveys found relatively few grasshopper or Mormon cricket outbreaks in FY 2006, and, accordingly, control treatments decreased from FY 2005 levels. The reduction in grasshopper outbreaks is likely due to a lack of favorable conditions for grasshoppers. For example, some areas that experienced drought in FY 2005 recovered, and grasshoppers do not cause as much damage to rangeland in years with adequate rainfall. Outbreaks of Mormon crickets can last anywhere from 5 to 20 years, and the Mormon cricket outbreak that started in 2000 appears to have peaked and begun declining. In FY 2006, APHIS conducted treatments to protect 238,467 acres. By comparison, treatments were requested to protect 769,746 acres in FY 2005. The following chart shows the FY 2006 acres protected by State:

State	Acres Protected
Idaho	34,720
Nevada	151,979
North Dakota	585
Utah	51,003
Washington	180
Total:	238,467

APHIS is undergoing a programmatic consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concerning 205 threatened and endangered species that could be affected by grasshopper or Mormon cricket suppression treatments. Currently, APHIS must conduct individual biological assessments for each area or State where suppression treatments are needed. Once the

programmatic consultation is completed, we will be able to conduct treatments according to standardized environmental guidelines.

The grasshopper and Mormon cricket program met its performance target for FY 2006 of conducting surveys in all 17 States affected by these insects.

8. Gypsy Moth

In FY 2006, APHIS and its State cooperators continued to conduct survey activities for both Asian and European gypsy moth to detect and delimit any isolated populations. As part of these efforts, the program deployed approximately 250,000 traps nationwide. Asian gypsy moth is not established in the United States, but survey efforts revealed two introductions of this biotype in FY 2006. APHIS plans to carry out eradication activities for these two introductions as well as six isolated European gypsy moth infestations in FY 2007.

European gypsy moth is established in all or parts of 19 eastern States, and APHIS and State cooperators conduct regulatory activities within the generally infested area to prevent human-assisted spread of the pest. These efforts include inspection, treatment, and certification of regulated articles such as logs, nursery stock, and mobile homes for movement from infested to non-infested areas. Outdoor household articles, such as lawn furniture, are also regulated; because of the large number of household moves each year, homeowners are required to inspect and self-certify their belongings to supplement Federal and State resources.

Although the European gypsy moth is a relatively slow-moving insect and human- assisted gypsy moth spread poses the biggest threat to U.S. natural resources, the pest spreads into areas bordering the quarantined zone naturally each year. APHIS monitors the transition zone along the 1,200 mile-long border of the infested area ensure that newly infested areas are added to the quarantined zone and regulated effectively. In FY 2006, seven new counties were found to be infested and added to the quarantined area. This action allows APHIS and State cooperators to ensure that businesses and residents in the newly infested areas comply with regulations designed to prevent long-distance spread of the pest.

To address a particularly high-risk pathway for Asian gypsy moth, the program continued cooperative offshore risk-reduction activities with the Russian Department of Forestry and Department of Quarantine. Vessels departing for the United States from 10 Russian ports are inspected for gypsy moth, and those found to have egg masses are cleaned before they leave the port. APHIS monitors the effectiveness of these efforts through DNA analysis of all Asian gypsy moths detected in the United States. In FY 2006, the program inspected approximately 500 vessels at Russian ports and met its performance target of preventing Asian gypsy moth introductions linked to Russia.

9. Imported Fire Ant (IFA)

In FY 2006, the program continued working with infested States to prevent the artificial spread of IFA through host materials such as nursery stock. The program conducted a series of regulatory blitzes to check that regulated articles moving outside the quarantine area had been properly treated in accordance with APHIS' quarantine regulations. These quarantine regulations, which require that host materials from infested areas be certified free of IFA, are our primary method of preventing the pest's spread. The blitzes were coordinated among Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, several of the States that form the leading edge of the current IFA-infested area. In FY 2006, the program continued working on protocols to certify pine straw, apiary equipment, baled hay, and balled-and-burlapped nursery stock as IFA-free.

APHIS and its cooperators are continuing a biological control project using various species of phorid flies, *Pseudacteon spp.*, a natural enemy of imported fire ants. With technical support and funding from APHIS, State officials conduct releases in infested areas with the hope that the flies will become established and

ultimately spread over entire areas. The presence of the flies should negatively impact IFA populations and allow native ants to compete for resources, thus aiding in the restoration of the ecological balance. Preliminary data from a USDA-Agricultural Research Service integrated pest management project utilizing the flies, along with another biological control agent and insecticidal bait applications, has shown that IFA populations can be controlled with fewer insecticide applications over time when biological control agents are in place.

Since spring 2002, 68 releases involving two species of phorid flies have been completed or scheduled (16 in calendar year 2006), with several releases in each of 13 States/territories under Federal quarantine. Flies have been successfully established in parts of at least 10 States/territories. The program ultimately plans to introduce six to eight species of flies, with plans on track to add the third species by calendar year 2008.

In FY 2006, APHIS met the performance measure target of no IFA infestations outside of regulated areas. APHIS expects to maintain the zero infestation level for the future.

10. Johne's Disease

In cooperation with States, affected industries, and producers, APHIS recently updated a national Johne's disease strategic plan to help reduce the prevalence of the disease in the United States. The strategic plan includes the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP), which provides testing guidelines for States to use to identify cattle herds at low risk for Johne's disease infection. Currently, the program is supporting a national demonstration project. The program implemented pilot studies focusing on current testing schemes and control methods in each region of the country in FY 2003. Once APHIS collects enough data (at least three years of data are needed), we hope to determine which management practices that control *M. avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* lead to decreased disease prevalence and/or increased milk production. Seventeen States are involved in this project, encompassing 75 dairy herds and 26 beef herds. To date, APHIS has published 38 papers or abstracts and given over 68 presentations (not including over 30 producer or veterinary seminars). In addition, the Agency has initiated at least nine additional projects using national demonstration herds as the setting for additional studies.

The Johne's Program is voluntary in nature and is managed using a Federal, State, and industry cooperative approach. It has been developed in cooperation with the National Johne's Working Group and the Johne's Committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association, State veterinarians, and industry representatives. Select State-level Designated Johne's Disease Coordinators by State and Federal representatives jointly. Also, each State has a Johne's Disease Group (comprised of producer, university, laboratory, regulatory and veterinary practitioner representatives) to assist the State with program development and guidance.

At the end FY 2006, APHIS exceeded its goal by two when 47 states were in full compliance with the national Johne's program. Only three States, Massachusetts, Montana, and Wyoming, have not adopted the VBJDCP. By the end of the year, 8,441 herds were enrolled in the VBJDCP, thus exceeding the goal to enroll 8,150 herds by 3.5 percent. The program approached its underlying goal to enroll at least 10 percent of the dairy herds in the nation by enrolling 9.8 percent (based on licensed milking operations).

Approximately 21 percent of cattle herds enrolled in the VBJDCP have a test-negative herd classification for Johne's, below the target of 30 percent. Since this program is voluntary, the ratio of test-negative to test-positive producer participation is difficult to predict. The program approached but did not exceed its target of 1,800 test-negative herds, with 1,792 test negative herds in FY 2006. Enrolling fewer test-negative herds may also indicate that there are fewer Johne's free herds in the country than estimated through prevalence studies or that herds free of the disease perceive less benefits from the program.

The program continues to encourage producer participation by emphasizing the implementation of comprehensive producer education and training programs; defining and prioritizing knowledge gaps that influence producer participation and affect Johne's disease control; enhancing State implementation of the

Program, and thus uniformity, through better participant coordination; and strengthening the standardized national database to allow measurement of program progress and participation.

11. Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI)

National Poultry Improvement Plan —(Commercial Poultry Industry)
During FY 2004, APHIS drafted a proposed rule to implement an LPAI surveillance program in commercial poultry following adoption by National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) participants in July 2004. The regulation was published as an interim final rule September 26, 2006, adding 9 CFR parts 56 and 146. The program is currently beginning implementation at the Official State Agency level to enroll commercial poultry participants in NPIP. This program will greatly increase the amount of LPAI surveillance conducted in commercial poultry, enhancing our ability to detect and respond to disease and facilitating trade through the documentation of disease-free status.

As part of the regulation, 9 CFR 56.10, States are required to develop an initial State response and containment plan in order for indemnification of LPAI to occur in their State. To date, 32 States have submitted for NPIP review their initial response and containment plans for H5 and H7 LPAI.

In FY 2006, APHIS had a total of 25 States that support NPIP H5/H7 monitoring in commercial poultry. Those States, with high concentrations of commercial poultry populations, include: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

APHIS has also established a bank of H5 and H7 avian influenza vaccines. With the contracts put in place between FY 2004 and FY 2006, approximately 140 million doses of vaccine are available.

Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS)
States are responsible for enforcing LPAI program standards. All LBMs, producers, and distributors that supply the markets must be registered or licensed with the State and must allow Federal and State inspectors access to their facilities, birds, and records. These facilities must also have written biosecurity protocols in place. APHIS coordinates and administers the program, and provides personnel and resources to assist States with implementation and compliance with program requirements.

Surveillance in the LBMS remains a high priority. As of FY 2006, APHIS had initiated cooperative agreements with 31 States/Territories for monitoring LBMS activities (Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico). Of those 31 States, 9 new States (Alabama, Colorado, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin) and Puerto Rico joined the program to conduct LBMS surveillance. In February and September 2006, the LBM working group met to address prevention and control of LPAI H5 and H7 in the LBMS.

As part of USDA's initiative to combat LPAI, APHIS' facilitated a three day LBMS training course from August 29-31, 2006, at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, St. Paul, Minnesota. The purpose of the course was to inform and familiarize State and Federal employees working in the LBMS throughout the United States with various aspects of the LBMS. These aspects included respiratory diseases that affect poultry, laboratory testing, biosecurity, personal protective equipment, demonstration of correct euthanasia techniques, geographic information systems, State and Federal regulations, the role of USDA's Investigation and Enforcement Services, risk communication, the National Animal Identification System, an update on high pathogenicity AI H5N1 in Asia, and cultural sensitivity in the LBMS setting. Ninety-two State and Federal personnel from 32 States and territories and 7 international attendees from Pakistan, Philippines, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, and Romania participated in the lectures, discussion groups, hands-on poultry wet-labs, and site visits.

In FY 2006, 101,435 samples collected from 12 States (Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Vermont) by animal health technicians and veterinary medical officers at both the State and Federal level were submitted to National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories to be tested for the presence of AI antibodies on agar gel immunodiffusion. In addition, 24,455 samples (each sample representing 5 individual swabs pooled for a composite single sample) from 7 States (Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas) were submitted to be tested for the presence of AI virus by virus isolation. Further, 19,857 tracheal/oral pharyngeal swab samples (each sample representing 5 individual swabs pooled for a composite single sample) from 15 States (Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Vermont) were submitted to be tested for the presence of AI virus by real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. This represents a total number of 145,747 AI tests and 322,995 birds tested for FY 2006 as compared to 43,351 AI tests and 132,431 birds tested for FY 2005. While testing at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is not included in this report, all positive specimens were submitted to NVSL for confirmation.

As a result of recent efforts by APHIS and the States, we have seen a marked decline in the incidence of LPAI viruses in the LBMS in the United States, particularly in New Jersey and New York. For example, in New Jersey's retail LBMs, of the 189 sampling visits (test events) to 36 markets in FY 2006, only two markets were positive at least once, as compared to 23 markets positive in FY 2005. The incidence of LPAI in New Jersey's LBMs has decreased from 20 percent in FY 2005 to 1.6 percent in FY 2006. In the New York LBMs, of the 884 sampling visits to 100 LBMs in which over 12,000 pooled samples were collected, only 18 markets were positive at least once during FY 2006, as compared to 40 markets positive in FY 2005. In New York's retail LBMs, the percent of samples positive over the total number of samples submitted has decreased from 6.3 percent in FY 2005 to 1.1 percent in FY 2006.

12. Noxious Weeds

APHIS works with cooperators at the State and local levels and private organizations to detect and evaluate incipient noxious weed infestations and contain or eradicate new infestations. The program also provides national guidance on weed management policy and support to State cooperators by developing or identifying program methods and environmental assessment of treatment options. In FY 2006, the program responded to new outbreaks of several noxious weeds, including hydrilla and Japanese dodder; added two new senecio species to the Federal Noxious Weeds List; and continued ongoing projects to target high-priority species. To measure its progress, the program is tracking acres detected and treated for five high-priority species, including Bengal dayflower in North Carolina; tropical soda apple in Alabama; small broomrape in Georgia; cogongrass in Mississippi; and giant hogweed in Oregon. In FY 2006, the program met or exceeded its treatment goals in all five States.

New outbreaks of hydrilla, an aquatic weed with the potential to clog waterways, were detected in an Indiana lake and in the Ohio River in West Virginia. State officials are taking regulatory action to prevent the Indiana outbreak from spreading. However, because the Ohio River drains into the Mississippi, these two outbreaks threaten the entire Mississippi River System. APHIS and West Virginia officials are formulating plans to address the Ohio River outbreak, and the program is conducting surveys upstream (in Ohio and Pennsylvania) from the current detection to ensure that the extent of the outbreak is known. APHIS and California officials are also responding to the introduction of Japanese dodder, a parasitic plant that engulfs host plants. APHIS alerted Customs and Border Protection officials to be on the lookout for Japanese dodder seeds, which are often imported illegally.

In southern States, the noxious weeds program continued working to address tropical soda apple, Bengal dayflower (also referred to as tropical spiderwort), and cogongrass, among others. In FY 2006, the program made progress in developing an integrated vegetation management strategy for tropical soda apple utilizing biological control agents, herbicides, and land management practices. The program also supported

surveys in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, and is completing environmental documentation for the use of new herbicides to treat infestations.

The program also continued to eradicate several small isolated infestations of Bengal dayflower in North Carolina and is cooperating with Mississippi to address the first detection of this weed in the State. Bengal dayflower is tolerant of glyphosate, a primary ingredient in Roundup weed control products, so it is a particular problem in Roundup Ready cotton and soybean crops. The program detected this weed in ornamental plants at a retail nursery outlet in North Carolina. The shipment of plants was traced back to a wholesale dealer in South Carolina, who likely received them from Louisiana or Florida. APHIS has alerted State departments of agriculture who are on the lookout for infested shipments during routine nursery inspections.

In FY 2006, the program also added two Ragwort species to the Federal Noxious Weeds List through an interim rule published in the *Federal Register*. These species are present in Mexico and could be introduced into the United States through wool, hides, and other commodities. Adding them to the list of regulated species allows Customs and Border Protection officials to take action at ports of entry if infested shipments are intercepted.

13. Pink Bollworm

In FY 2006, pink bollworm (PBW) populations continued to decline as a direct result of APHIS' expanding eradication program, with infestation levels within the program areas dropping by more than 90 percent over the last 2 to 3 years. In Texas, relatively light PBW infestations occur around Corpus Christi, and in the southern High Plains. These infestations should decline, and eventually be eliminated, as eradication is accomplished in the program area around El Paso. As the eradication program expands, many growers are paying approximately $40 per acre in technology fees to purchase and plant *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton. Bt cotton varieties provide significant PBW control, further increasing the effectiveness of sterile moth releases. APHIS expects to eradicate this pest by FY 2013. In FY 2007, APHIS proposed to merge the Boll Weevil and PBW eradication programs into a single Cotton Pests Program. This consolidated program is designed to facilitate the efficient eradication of these pests from all cotton-producing areas of the United States and northern Mexico in cooperation with States, the cotton industry, and Mexico. The program also provides technical assistance to facilitate the trade of U.S. cotton in international markets. Consolidating the two programs will result in increased efficiency and cost savings, since the same personnel are often involved in combating both pests.

For FY 2006, APHIS established a target of protecting 80 percent of cotton acreage from pink bollworm infestation. The actual amount protected was 67 percent, due to an overall increase in planted acres within the eradication zones.

14. Plum Pox

In FY 2006, APHIS had $2.9 million available for Plum Pox Virus (PPV) operations. This figure consisted of $2.2 million in appropriated funds and $735,000 in carryover emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). In FY 2006, the program collected 243,411 samples in the three affected Pennsylvania counties (Adams, Cumberland, and York) and surrounding counties. Adams County had one positive tree in one orchard block in the regulated area, and two homeowner trees on one property that were just outside of the regulated area. Cumberland County had one private homeowner with three positive ornamental plants. York County tested negative this year. Less than 0.003 percent of the total samples taken tested positive in FY 2006. In recent years, the number of detections has dropped sharply from 400 known positive trees in 2000 to less than 7 positive trees per year from 2004 through 2006, demonstrating the program's success in finding and eliminating the disease promptly. In the summer of 2006, PPV was detected at two sites (commercial orchards) in New York and one site in Michigan. The program responded by conducting 100 percent surveys around each positive site out at least five miles. Two trees tested positive at the first site in New York and one tree tested positive at the second site. A total of 86,131

samples were collected and processed in New York. In Michigan, one positive tree was detected at a research station. Testing of trees at a 100 percent sampling rate was conducted out to 6.7 miles from the positive site. No new positives were detected from the 50,744 samples collected. The positive trees have been destroyed and Emergency Action Notices were given to all growers within one mile to prohibit the movement of propagative Prunus material from their properties, pending the establishment of regulated areas in the two States. In addition, APHIS is evaluating the practical and scientific feasibility of releasing most of the original Pennsylvania core area from regulation. This area has tested negative for three years.

For FY 2006, this program met its target of limiting total samples with positive readings to less than three thousandths of a percent.

15. Pseudorabies

At the end of FY 2006, all 50 States and three Territories were in Stage V Pseudorabies Virus (PRV-free) status, thus meeting the program performance target. The last PRV outbreak in commercial production swine occurred in February 2003 in Pennsylvania.

In FY 2006, there were 12 reported cases of herds with PRV infection (nine were in Texas, two were in Tennessee, one was in Arizona), and six of these cases were mixed infections with Brucellosis. All cases were confined to transitional swine production, with no spread to commercial production herds. Transitional production swine are defined in the Pseudorabies Program Standards as feral swine that are captive or swine that have reasonable opportunities to be exposed to feral swine. This classification of swine is different from feral or wild swine that are free-roaming and commercial production swine that are continuously managed and have adequate facilities and practices to prevent exposure to either transitional production or feral swine.

All positive animals were promptly depopulated. These 12 cases were in contrast to four cases reported in FY 2005 and seven in FY 2004. The increase in cases was attributed to good epidemiological trace back work in Texas, where many inter-related cases were found in transitional herds that lacked adequate biosecurity protocols. However, none of these herds was located near or interacted with commercial-type operations.

New disease challenges in the commercial industry (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, circovirus, etc.) mandate strict biosecurity and marketing protocols, allowing little chance for transitional operation infections to infect commercial swine operations. Program focus has remained on emphasizing separation of feral and transitional pigs from commercial swine production with a requirement that States be responsible for developing feral-transitional swine management plans as part of their annual PRV reporting requirements.

Market swine surveillance (meat juice) continued in FY 2006 as a major surveillance tool for PRV, as it expanded into three more plants in Nebraska and Minnesota, in addition to its Iowa base. APHIS found no commercial herd infections with meat juice sampling. For FY 2007, the sampling level will be reduced in half, due to analysis regarding appropriate sampling levels. These cost savings will allow expansion of the program to other slaughter plants in other States and in other regions of the country. In FY 2007, APHIS will also continue integrating a revised PRV Surveillance Plan as a part of developing a comprehensive swine surveillance initiative.

16. Scrapie

In FY 2006, the indicator of scrapie prevalence—the percent black-face sheep found positive at slaughter—continued to decrease, down 35 percent from FY 2005. Black-face sheep have much higher scrapie prevalence than white-face or mottled-face sheep, making them the best population for assessing progress. There was also a 37 percent reduction in the number of new infected and source flocks identified during the

fiscal year. During FY 2006, the program sampled 42,823 animals (37,167 at slaughter facilities and 5,656 at other sites) for scrapie testing, an increase of 10 percent over the previous year.

The program encountered several obstacles in 2006. The most significant of these was the extension of BSE enhanced surveillance and avian influenza initiatives. Despite these hurdles, APHIS increased collections by 10 percent overall and by 20 percent for black- and mottled-faced sheep. Also, some States have not implemented intrastate identification requirements in a timely manner, resulting in an inability to trace some scrapie-infected and exposed animals. Currently, 47 States are in compliance. APHIS is in the process of removing consistent state status from the three States that have not complied. Proper identification of sheep and goats is a critical component of a successful, coordinated disease eradication effort.

The scrapie program plans to work closely with the States in 2007 to emphasize the need for identification compliance. APHIS continues to provide support to the States in this critical area through cooperative agreements. State involvement and compliance with identification requirements is a critical component in the eradication program. To further enhance the effort, APHIS is working to integrate the scrapie identification program with the Animal Identification Number (AIN) management system. The AIN distribution system replaced part of the current scrapie program ear tag system in FY 2006, and a complete conversion will occur in early FY 2007. The program's objective is to continue to work with the industry to improve the existing scrapie program identification system to better meet industry needs and to improve the ability to trace exposed and positive animals and monitor the geographical representation of surveillance samples.

APHIS' scrapie program took a significant step toward paperless data collection and results reporting by developing and successfully piloting a mobile information management module (MIMM) system for scrapie genotype testing. MIMM utilizes a tablet personal computer, radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags, an RFID reader, and a barcode printer to record data chute-side and submit them electronically to the Scrapie National Generic Database and the testing laboratory. This technology is expected to significantly improve data quality and reporting. This will also enhance APHIS' ability to address both domestic program needs and emergency response by providing a workforce trained in the use of electronic lab submission forms, barcode technology, and RFID; the information technology infrastructure needed to support the initiative; and functioning mobile units that can be used across APHIS programs, including emergency response. This initiative by the scrapie program has allowed the rapid adaptation of this technology for avian influenza.

Finally, as a result of efforts beginning in 2004, the scrapie program will recognize an operational savings of over $1 million per year. The effort to allow private laboratories to genotype samples has introduced the element of competition, thereby lowering the cost to producers and to APHIS for the tests. The genotype testing is used to identify sheep that are resistant to scrapie. This testing is not related to disease diagnostic testing, which is done by NVSL and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. APHIS estimates the cost savings for genotyping to be $258,000 in FY 2006. Advancements in testing procedures during 2004 have led to an immunohistochemistry test requiring one slide instead of two. This resulted in a 50 percent cost savings, or $929,175 in 2006 and more in future years as surveillance numbers increase. Lastly, by reducing the number of lower-risk white-faced sheep sampled at slaughter, APHIS saved an estimated $353,000 in test and labor costs. Change in cost from initiation of the program is used to calculate test cost savings.

17. Tuberculosis (TB)

At the end of FY 2006, the program designated 49 States and Territories plus portions of two others as accredited TB-free, thus exceeding the target of 47 States and territories considered class free. Fourteen States and the U.S. Virgin Islands have maintained their TB-free status for more than 25 years; 21 States have been TB-free for 15 years or more; seven States have been TB-free for 10 years or more; and three States and one territory have been TB-free for five years or more. Two States and portions of two others

have been TB-free for less than two years. The number of lesions for testing submitted remained relatively constant from FY 2005 (9,439 submissions), to FY 2006 (9,334 submissions). Minnesota lost accredited free status as a result of the detection of multiple infected herds. Additionally, Texas regained accredited free status.

In FY 2006, APHIS disclosed nine newly affected cattle herds (seven in Michigan, two in Minneapolis), and no newly affected cervid herds. Because the State of Michigan went through FY 2005 without finding a newly infected herd, the number of newly infected herds detected in FY 2006 was a disappointment. However, the problem in Michigan is due to spread from wildlife to domestic livestock; the program's ultimate success will depend on the ability to prevent spread from wildlife and, ultimately, to eliminate the disease from that wildlife reservoir.

In FY 2006, the program disclosed 28 compatible cases for tracing through slaughter surveillance; of that number, four are pending closure. A total of 24 (86 percent) cases have been traced to the herd of origin or closed; and most cases (22) have been traced back to Mexico.

APHIS continues to work on regulations to reinforce risk-based international movements. APHIS updated 8 memoranda and published two notices pertaining to TB eradication policies. During FY 2006 these updates included information on clarifications on the maintenance of State status levels; updated protocols for TB testing in cattle and bison; criteria for establishing and maintaining commuter herds; evaluation of provisional tests for TB detection; movement requirements for animals from modified accredited advanced States or zones; and wildlife reservoirs of disease and their affect on herd plans. In 2006, APHIS initiated work on harmonizing the domestic and international rules, as well as the bovine and cervid portions of these rules. APHIS expects the proposed rules to be published for comment in the Spring of 2007.

18. Wildlife Services Operations

APHIS prevents or reduces conflicts between people and wildlife. State agencies, county and municipal governments, private homeowners, farmers, ranchers, and other property owners rely on our expertise to help prevent, minimize, or manage wildlife damage. This damage can impact agriculture, property, natural resources, and even threaten public health and safety.

APHIS' 25 wildlife disease biologists provided technical assistance, conducted surveillance, and maintained control of over 18 wildlife diseases. For example: APHIS assisted 24 States with chronic wasting disease, 19 States with plague, 19 States with tularemia, 21 States with feral swine disease surveillance, and all 50 States with avian influenza specifically APHIS sampled 6,780 hunter-harvested deer for bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease to assist Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health; sampled approximately 5,000 deer to assist Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources with detecting chronic wasting disease; sampled approximately 22,000 hunter-harvested deer to assist Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources with conducting chronic wasting disease surveillance; collected 4,137 plague samples from carnivores in mostly western States, collected 5,034 samples for tularemia analysis, mobilized employees in chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis control efforts; mobilized a command center and responded to a plague outbreak in South Dakota to protect endangered black-footed ferrets and human health by treating nine prairie dog colonies covering over 5,000 acres with insecticide to reduce flea populations transmitting the plague.

During FY 2006 APHIS distributed 11,398,590 oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The number of baits distributed to control specific rabies virus variants by target species was: raccoon, 8,587,827; gray fox, 2,035,763; coyote, 772,000; and striped skunk, 3,000. The Agency baited a total of 81,745 square miles. APHIS continues to improve the National Rabies Management Program; in FY 2006, the program widened flight lines from 500 to 750 meters for ORV targeting raccoons based on data that indicated no diminished

performance. This step resulted in conservation of fuel and funds to address rabies contingencies. APHIS also increased the number of coated sachet baits purchased instead of fish meal polymer baits from four to six million, resulting in a conservation of resources that the program also applied to rabies contingency actions. In cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and States agencies, APHIS implemented a new rapid diagnostic rabies test (dRIT) that can confirm rabies in 50 minutes in the field, allowing for sound decisions in real-time based on the best available rabies surveillance data. The Agency held training regarding the dRIT in over 12 States.

Coyotes, mountain lions, bear, and wolves kill thousands of lambs and calves each year. Livestock losses attributed to predators cost ranchers and producers more than $71 million annually, according to the most recent surveys by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. APHIS continues to provide leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts that threaten livestock. In Wisconsin, APHIS responded to 185 requests to resolve conflicts with wolves in FY 2006. Of these, 26 farms experienced wolf depredations to domestic livestock. After APHIS provided abatement, only four farms reported having additional depredations on their farms. In Wyoming, APHIS responded to 172 requests to resolve conflicts with wolves in FY 2006. Our specialists conducted field investigations and verified that wolves were responsible for the injury or predation loss of 166 head of livestock. In Minnesota, APHIS responded to 193 requests for assistance with management of wolf-livestock conflicts. APHIS verified losses to wolves, which included 12 cows, 72 calves, 19 sheep, 1 burro, 2 pigs, and 554 turkeys. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists the Gray wolf as a threatened species in Minnesota. Minnesota's wolf population is at an all-time high of about 3,000 wolves, which is more than double the Federal recovery goal of 1,250 to 1,400 wolves established for the State. Since APHIS is the Federal agency responsible for managing wolf-livestock conflicts in Minnesota, APHIS employs an integrated approach that utilizes both lethal and non-lethal methods of wolf control as well as improvements in animal husbandry practices. APHIS also responded to 28 requests to resolve wildlife conflicts in Arizona, 100 in Idaho, 97 in Montana, 46 in New Mexico, and 5 in Utah.

Beaver are one of the most destructive wildlife species, causing millions of dollars in damage to roads, bridges, dikes and dams, sewer and water treatment facilities, and landscape plants. Many experts believe that the cost of beaver damage is greater than that caused by any other wildlife species in the United States. In Mississippi and North Carolina, the problem is so severe that APHIS conducts State-wide beaver damage management programs that also receive major funding from State agencies. In North Carolina alone, the beaver population is reaching 500,000. APHIS efforts in that State prevented over $11 million in damages in FY 2006. Overall, APHIS prevented an estimated $29.6 million in beaver damage in 14 States. For each dollar spent on this activity, APHIS protected $6.30 worth of resources such as crops and pasture, drainage control structures, roads and bridges, and timber.

APHIS continued to prevent the unintentional introduction of the brown treesnake (BTS) from Guam to other Pacific Islands, Hawaii, and the continental United States in FY2006. The Agency intercepted over 10,000 BTS on Guam or near ports of exit, a 36 percent increase over the last fiscal year. APHIS improved access to Department of Defense export cargo aircraft from Andersen Air Force Base, which reduced the potential for BTS inadvertently shipped to the United States. APHIS also expanded the use of the oral BTS toxicant, acetaminophen, resulting in a significant reduction of BTS from Guam ports of exit.

In Hawaii, APHIS controlled Coqui frogs at a small-scale plant nursery and prevented Coqui frogs from entering the Hawaiian floriculture industry, which is valued at $90 million per year. By eradicating these frogs, APHIS reduced the potential for the frogs reaching other islands. APHIS worked cooperatively with the County of Hawaii to control Coqui frogs by using a citric acid solution which effectively kills frogs and their eggs.

The nutria, a large, semi-aquatic rodent native to South America, is an invasive species that causes damage to crops, marshlands, and structural foundations such as levees and roads. The rodent is also a host to several pathogens including tuberculosis. APHIS completed the initial removal of nutria from all suitable habitats in Dorchester County, Maryland. This was the first phase of wide-scale nutria eradication with the

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area, and 166 private landowners. The next phase is to move into surrounding counties on the Delmarva Peninsula. The Agency also utilized remote digital cameras and remote triggering devices to monitor nutria. Our biologists are utilizing a characteristic of nutria behavior to increase capture efficiency called "false feeding beds", which attracts nutria to a capture sight. This new modification of a capture technique has both saved time and increased effectiveness of nutria capture.

APHIS worked in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to determine the range of the Gambian giant pouch rats in Grassy Key, Florida. APHIS designed a bait station for administering rodent-specific toxic bait to Gambian rats in Florida. The bait stations allow Gambian rats to enter, but discourage other wildlife and domestic pets. APHIS officials installed 80 bait stations equipped with digital surveillance cameras in known and suspected Gambian rat habitat throughout Grassy Key, and monitored for ten days. Our biologists will use the information to establish a grid system throughout the Gambian rat habitat, and spacing for placing specifically designed bait stations. APHIS has partnered with the South Florida Water Management District to cut the lanes of the grid system through heavy brush.

Through cooperative agreements, APHIS provided assistance to 660 airports and airbases nationwide. In addition, our specialists provided training and technical assistance to Brazil, China, Thailand, Nigeria, and Mexico. APHIS strives to find new and innovative methods to mitigate wildlife damage at airports. APHIS developed new bird census procedures at airports that incorporate geographic information system technologies. The method provides for an improved assessment of the actual safety risk posed by various bird species observed on an airport and allows APHIS officials to efficiently prioritize management actions to species and airport locations. APHIS, in cooperation with the Port Authorities of New Jersey and New York, implemented a program of Canada goose management at LaGuardia Airport in New York City, which resulted in a 100 percent reduction in Canada goose strikes. APHIS also continued a deer management program at O'Hare International Airport, in cooperation with the City of Chicago, which is in its eleventh consecutive year of zero deer strikes. The Agency, in cooperation with the Kansas City Airport Authority, designed a habitat management program involving cattle grazing at Kansas City International Airport, which has resulted in an 81 percent reduction in deer intrusions on the airport. The Federal Aviation Administration recognized the APHIS airport safety program with an award for "Excellence in Aviation Research" in FY 2006.

19. Witchweed

APHIS works in cooperation with North and South Carolina to survey, control, and regulate witchweed, a weed that could threaten the $25.8 billion corn and sorghum crop in the United States if it is not contained. The eradication program prevents U.S. commodities from facing restrictions in the global marketplace. Since the discovery of witchweed in 1956, the acreage supporting it has been reduced from approximately 439,000 acres to an estimated 2,558 acres at the end of FY 2006.

As the program reduces sites of infection to an extremely low level, it is common for new detections to occur on small plots of land while eradication occurs on others. In fact, overall infested acreage actually increased slightly between FYs 2005 and 2006, partly due to fallow farm fields being brought back into production and planted with witchweed host crops. To combat these new infestations, the program increased the number of acres treated for witchweed, exceeding its performance target of treating 2,700 acres and actually treating 5,267 acres. To ensure that these infestations are not spread through farm practices, the program is revising its quarantine regulations to cover the new fields. In the same *Federal Register* notice, APHIS will deregulate at least 27 farms where eradication activities have been successful.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Current Activities: The program activities under this component ensure the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA) of 1970 as

amended. Under this legislation first enacted in 1966 and amended several times thereafter, APHIS carries out activities designed to ensure the humane care and handling of animals used in research, exhibition, the wholesale pet trade, or transported in commerce. APHIS places primary emphasis on inspection of facilities, records, investigation of complaints, inspection of problem facilities, and training of inspectors. Regulations supporting the AWA, which appear in 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1-3, provide minimum standards for the handling, housing, feeding, transportation, sanitation, ventilation, shelter from inclement weather, and veterinary care of regulated animals.

APHIS performs pre-licensing inspections because, according to statute, applicants must be in full compliance with AWA regulations and standards before being issued a license. After APHIS issues a license, program personnel perform unannounced compliance inspections and inspections to verify continued compliance. By law, all registered research facilities are inspected at least once a year. If violations discovered during a compliance inspection remain uncorrected at the time of the inspections process, these violations are documented on the inspection report.

APHIS also administers the HPA as amended, which prohibits the showing, sale, auction, exhibition, or transport of sore horses. Sponsors and/or management of shows, sales, auctions and exhibitions have statutory responsibility under the HPA to prevent unfair competition, and must identify and disqualify sore horses.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

1. Animal Welfare

APHIS continues to focus on conducting quality inspections under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) at USDA licensed and registered facilities. The program's risk-based inspection system concentrates activities on facilities where animal welfare concerns are the greatest. During FY 2006, the program conducted 18,600 inspections of licensees, registrants, and prospective applicants. This represents a thirteen percent increase over FY 2005, and continues the upward trend in inspections begun in FY 2001. By the end of FY 2006, the number of animal care inspectors stood at 100, an increase from the low of 64 at the end of FY 1998. In an important case resulting from the enforcement of the AWA, the University of California at San Francisco paid a $92,000 fine assessed for AWA violations. APHIS also rescinded the USDA license for C.C. Baird in a case involving numerous violations of the AWA and posted photos of the pets along with contact information on APHIS's website to help owners locate their stolen pets found in the facility.

APHIS is taking a leadership role in coordination of all-hazards companion animal emergency management under the authority delegated from the Department of Homeland Security through Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF-11). During Hurricane Katrina, hundreds to thousands of citizens refused to evacuate because they were not allowed to take their cherished companion animals along with them. A post-storm study by the Fritz Institute found that the inability to evacuate with household pets was the second most important reason (cited by 44 percent) why citizens with the means to evacuate chose not to.

APHIS continues to have active role in pet rescue and shelter activities from Hurricane Katrina. Some of the initiatives APHIS continues to undertake include: collaborating with state and local authorities to rescue dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico, evacuating animals from Tulane Medical Center in New Orleans, and coordinating resource allocation to many humane organizations working in the disaster relief area. APHIS is a trusted partner with parish, state, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel on companion animal issues.

APHIS participated in companion animal disaster planning efforts at the FEMA Joint Field Office in Louisiana as well as the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). Agency personnel identified animal shelter locations adjacent to human shelter locations in Louisiana; assisted the LDAF in coordinating the development of contingency plans at the parishes; and developed technical requirements

for trucks to transport animals during an evacuation, and organized a transportation/shelter team and a heat stress monitoring team to respond in the event of a hurricane in Louisiana.

APHIS continued to emphasize public education and outreach through efforts consisting of: conducting canine care workshops around the country with commercial breeders as the target audience, participating as panel members at Institutional Care and Use Committee meetings and hosting State and Federal meetings of animal care officials. In 2006, APHIS sponsored eight canine care workshops at various locations throughout the United States for the benefit of commercial dog dealers. Topics included veterinary care, kennel design and maintenance, and nutrition. In addition, the program hosted a meeting in April 2006 for State officials from across the country to discuss issues of mutual concern including the resolution of conflicts between the various State and Federal statutes and authorities.

2. Horse Protection

APHIS continues to enforce the Horse Protection Act (HPA) of 1970 by prohibiting horses subjected to a cruel and abusive practice called soring from participating in shows, sales, exhibitions or auctions. Soring is a technique in which a trainer would irritate or blister a horse's forelegs through the injection or application of chemicals or mechanical irritants; the technique is used by horse owners and trainers to gain a competitive edge and improve their chances to win at shows. APHIS held one joint training session in 2006 for enforcement of the HPA in Tennessee, to which every horse industry organization (HIO) was encouraged to send their designated qualified persons (DQPs). DQPs are USDA accredited veterinarians with equine experience, or they are farriers, horse trainers, or other knowledgeable horsemen who have been formally trained and licensed by USDA certified horse industry organizations or associations. Participation by APHIS personnel in the Horse Protection program is still limited to those Animal Care Inspectors and Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) that volunteer for such duty, reducing training costs and availing more money for direct enforcement of the Act. Additionally, APHIS provided personnel to assist with and teach portions of DQP training programs for personnel that were unable or unwilling to attend the main joint training. These alternate training sessions took place in Spokane, Washington; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Springfield, Missouri. These locations, as well as a new location for training established by one large HIO in California, will be visited by Animal Care personnel in 2007.

APHIS continues to test for illegal foreign substances on the limbs of horses, in cooperation with the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, via mass spectrometry. The testing revealed that the incidence of the use of topical anesthetics (50 percent at some shows in 2005) has continued at the same high level in 2006. In April 2006, industry stakeholders were notified that the testing and evaluation phase of foreign substance identification had expired. Violators will no longer be issued an APHIS form 7060, the "notice of violation of Federal regulations." A protocol has been developed for the testing of the algometer, a pressure-inducing device that will make the examination process more scientific and objective than pressure induced by digital palpation alone. Subject horses and locations are currently being sought for testing purposes. Algometers are expected to play an important future role in detecting "soreness" in horses. A research project should commence in the winter of 2007.

APHIS personnel again attended the Tennessee Walking Horse breed's biggest show, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in August/September 2006. Out of 2,416 horses entered, there were 235 entries disqualified from competition due to violations of the HPA regulations. The violation rate in FY 2006 was 9.73 percent, compared to 7.11 percent in 2005, 5.55 percent in 2004, and 4.36 percent in 2003. These ascending violation rate statistics, combined with the rate of foreign substance usage determined with our new technology, confirms that current enforcement resources and strategies are not sufficient to protect horses from soring.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Current Activities: The programs within this component ensure the effectiveness of the technology and protocols used in APHIS programs. APHIS conducts these programs to develop new or improved methods for managing wildlife damage to crops, livestock, natural resources, property, and public health and safety; detecting, identifying and/or diagnosing plant pathogens, insect pests and weeds; developing and evaluating quarantine treatments for trade commodities; dealing with foreign animal diseases and bioterrorism threats which endanger animal agriculture and the food supply in the United States.; controlling or eradicating harmful plant pests; facilitating global agricultural trade; ensuring that new products produced using biotechnology are safe for agriculture and the environment; and, applying new technology to protect the health and marketability of animals and animal products. The Agency also conducts laboratory testing programs to support disease and pest control and/or eradication programs. Additionally, APHIS provides advice and assistance to agency programs on environmental compliance requirements with respect to pesticide registration and drug approvals for products used in implementing these programs.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

1. APHIS Information Technology and Infrastructure

APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure (AITI) is the hardware, software and telecommunications infrastructure that provides APHIS employees with e-mail and office automation tools, Internet access, and access to mission critical program and administrative applications. AITI is the key technology enabler that supports APHIS mission critical programs and administrative applications.

APHIS objectives and priorities are to improve sharing of information across the Agency; improve coordination and accessibility of information, processes, and resources available to assist programs in emergencies; improve APHIS' cybersecurity posture; and provide the means to take advantage of E-Gov initiatives. The following are selected examples of the APHIS's progress toward meeting these objectives.

- APHIS Cybersecurity Improvements – APHIS undertook a comprehensive Certification and Accreditation initiative in FY 2006, which enables the Agency to certify and accredit additional general support systems (Oracle, Linux); eliminate threats and vulnerabilities by preventing viruses, worms, operating system/applications software weaknesses; and manage undesirable activities that have an impact on productivity and efficiency of our employees. APHIS prevented 450 million intrusion attempts and removed over one million e-mail viruses in 2006.

- Critical Infrastructure Redundancy – APHIS has begun the process of providing a highly-redundant infrastructure to ensure availability of our key mission-critical services. This process has been completed for the enterprise Oracle infrastructure and is underway for e-mail and web access with completion expected in FY 2007. AITI has supported this by funding the additional hardware and software components that are needed to provide this service.

- E-mail Improvements – Employees heavily rely on e-mail and instant messaging to accomplish program activities. APHIS currently routes almost 16 billion system transactions annually, and expects this to grow by 20 percent next year. AITI has allowed APHIS to invest in new technology to meet this demand, and address reliability and availability. AITI supported an initiative to procure tools to address spam, which led to the security blocking of over 8.3 million spam messages from reaching APHIS users in FY 2006.

- Network Availability – APHIS program activities continue to grow in complexity, which creates a demand for data and information. The APHIS network has grown in response and must improve capacity, reliability, and proactive monitoring. In FY 2005, the network provided an aggregate bandwidth of 505,000 kilobytes/second, which grew in FY 2006 to over 595,000 kilobytes/second.

APHIS also provided new telephonic capabilities to maximize productivity and improve communications by delivering increased mobility, advanced functionality, and streamlined administrative tasks.

- Support for E-Government (E-Gov), Government Paperwork Elimination (GPEA), and Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) – AITI provided content management and information taxonomy support which are essential components of the USDA E-Gov initiatives. APHIS implemented 895 standard electronic forms and workflow to comply with the GPEA mandate to provide customers with an electronic and more efficient means to conduct business with APHIS, saving them time and money. Lastly, APHIS began enterprise architecture work with an initial emphasis on emergency management processes, due to their importance to APHIS and its stakeholders. These efforts will fit in well with USDA efforts, and ultimately with OMB's Federal Enterprise Architecture initiative.

- Standard Computer Suite Provision – APHIS maintains its hardware and software tools to receive vendor support when problems emerge and to receive vendor upgrades. A standard set of tools allows the Agency to maximize the exchange of information in a manner that is consistent, cost-effective and easy to support. Such an approach is considered a best practice within the Information Technology discipline because it helps manage costs, improve security, and reduce risk to an organization. Training and support costs are reduced as well. In FY 2006, APHIS added a number of widely used software packages and reduced the overall maintenance costs for these packages.

2. Biosecurity

The biosecurity program is intended to prevent the intentional introduction of biologically harmful pests and diseases that affect American agriculture. APHIS heightens its efforts to detect, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks on agriculture within the United States. The U.S. agricultural production, processing, and marketing systems are highly vulnerable to deliberate incursions, directly affecting the abundance and safety of the U.S. food supply. APHIS will continue efforts to prevent the intentional introduction of biologically harmful pests and diseases that affect American agriculture and will increase existing biosecurity measures within the Agency. APHIS assists in preparation for agricultural emergency response and will continue to improve APHIS' homeland security related activities including the preparation, planning, and consequence management of potential terrorist threats to agriculture. Examples of activities follow:

- In FY 2006, APHIS filled the liaison position at the Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. In addition to serving as APHIS on-site liaison, this person also serves as coordinator for all USDA training activities currently under way or planned as well as the APHIS Emergency Management Training Coordinator for the Agency.

- The program obtained access to the Forest Service's Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) for Agency use. This system automates the inventory of people and their skills and tracks APHIS resources deployed during emergency response. Further, APHIS adopted a Food Safety and Inspection Service initiative (called the Non-Routine Incident Management System) and modified the incident management and coordination system for use at APHIS headquarters. The system provides APHIS leadership with pertinent agricultural information and task management capabilities.

- APHIS jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Technical Support Working Group, initiated an agricultural biomass disposal project. This project proposes to design and build a mobile system capable of destroying contaminated biomass material such as poultry, hogs or cattle that are a potential disease risk. The system is intended to be self-sufficient and able to travel to the site where the problem exists to eliminate the need for off-site transport of the risk material.

3. Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS)

APHIS has successfully regulated the biotechnology industry for almost 20 years. During that time, the Agency has authorized more than 15,000 field tests involving genetically engineered (GE) organisms without impacts on human health or significant environmental harm, and has evaluated more than 90 petitions for deregulation to ensure these plants posed no threat to other plants or the environment. As of September 30, 2006, APHIS has granted 70 petitions for deregulation for the following crops: tomatoes, squash, cotton, soybeans, rapeseed, potatoes, papayas, beets, rice, flax, tobacco, sugar beet, alfalfa, red hearted chicory, and corn. The following paragraphs contain selected examples of recent program progress.

Proposed Regulatory Changes

APHIS is currently considering changes to its regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain GE organisms. Related to the proposed regulatory changes, the Agency is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement. The most significant changes under consideration are the broadening of the regulations to reflect the full authorities of the Plant Protection Act of 2000, the adoption of a multi-tiered, risk-based permitting system, the development of an adventitious presence policy, and new approaches to the rigorous oversight of plants engineered for producing pharmaceutical compounds.

Collaborative Federal Efforts to Address Genetically Engineered Rice in Commercial Long Grain Rice

In August 2006, Bayer CropScience notified APHIS that the company had detected trace amounts of LLRICE 601 (a regulated rice line) in samples taken from commercial long grain rice. USDA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) both reviewed the available scientific data and concluded that there was no human health, food safety, or environmental concerns associated with this GE rice.

LLRICE 601 uses the same protein as two deregulated lines of long grain rice that underwent thorough safety evaluations. FDA and APHIS deemed those lines safe for use in food and safe in the environment. This protein has been repeatedly and thoroughly scientifically reviewed and used safely in food and feed, cultivation, import and breeding in the United States, as well as nearly a dozen other countries around the world.

USDA immediately conducted an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the release, and launched an ambitious foundation seed testing effort. In addition, USDA worked closely with trading partners to provide them with information about the safety of this product. USDA is continuing these discussions into FY 2007.

Bayer CropScience has petitioned APHIS for a determination of non-regulated status for LLRICE601 through an extension of a determination of non-regulated status on the previously deregulated LLRICE 602, a very similar line that uses the same protein. The extension process can be used when a new GE crop variety is very similar to a previously deregulated GE variety.

APHIS has reviewed the information submitted by Bayer CropScience and has drafted an environmental assessment (EA) of the possible environmental impacts of extending non-regulated status to LLRICE601. In September 2006, APHIS published in the *Federal Register*, the information submitted by Bayer CropScience, the EA, and a preliminary decision on whether to extend non-regulated status to this variety. Upon considering public comments received during the 30-day comment period. APHIS will publish a response to comments, a final EA, and a final decision. The extension of non-regulated status was granted and is now effective.

Communication and Collaboration with States and Others

Because of the vital role that States play in the implementation of the Agency's biotechnology regulations, APHIS collaborates with the States and others to obtain input and perspectives on important aspects of

APHIS's regulatory system. Examples of collaborative efforts in FY 2006 include a cooperative project with the National Plant Board (NPB) to collect input and perspectives from the States on the most important aspects of APHIS's regulatory system and items that APHIS should consider during State evaluations. In January 2006, the NPB provided Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) with a report, summarizing this input from the States. APHIS and the NPB have used this project as a springboard to improve cooperation on a wide range of issues related to the regulation of biotechnology. Examples include: the development of a memorandum of understanding template to identify key roles in the States and APHIS on biotechnology issues, the development of a APHIS contact list for distribution; the development of a two-tiered training course for APHIS regulatory processes, and the identification and prioritization of key electronic data management issues and educational materials that APHIS and others can develop around regulating genetically-engineered organisms. APHIS and the NPB will continue their cooperative efforts into FY 2007.

Also in FY 2006, APHIS continued its cooperative project with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to implement a State Biotechnology Inspection Pilot Project to train and certify State inspectors to conduct inspection for low-risk field trials for genetically engineered plants. The pilot project includes training and certifying State personnel to conduct thorough inspections, establishing an agreement to perform inspections under APHIS oversight, and performing inspections throughout the states for one year. To date, 41 inspectors from 22 states have received the necessary classroom training. Of these, 18 inspectors from 14 States have completed the on-the-job training requirements. A total of 13 inspectors from 10 States have been certified by the program to conduct inspections. The evaluation of this project is expected in November 2006.

Compliance Oversight and Information Technology Systems

In FY 2006, the BRS program conducted 295 inspections of permitted sites and 453 inspections of sites under notification, for a total of 748 inspections. The program evaluated 65 potential non-compliance incidents and issued 36 guidance letters. Of the 65 incidences, 45 were self-reported, 17 were discovered through inspections, and three were reported through another way. In FY 2006, APHIS referred a significant case to its Investigative and Enforcement Services for further investigation.

In May 2006, APHIS launched the BRS notification portion of the e-Permits System. In this module, applicants can submit notifications on-line, resulting in automation of the workflow. The response from applicants has been positive. Presently, over 90 percent of notification applications are being submitted and processed electronically. In November 2006, APHIS launched the application of permits module. The module provides an interface where State officials can log into e-Permits to review notifications and permits. With the completion of the notifications, permits, and state's review modules in e-Permits, the front-end processing for all applications to APHIS is now handled through e-Permits. The next phase of e-Permits will incorporate the reporting and compliance part of the permitting and notification process, along with a barcode tracking feature for importations. The development of the next phase will occur in FY 2007.

International Coordination

APHIS continued to conduct international activities related to regulatory coordination. Specifically, Agency personnel participated in trilateral activities with Mexico and Canada to exchange information and harmonize approaches to biotechnology regulation under the North American Biotechnology Initiative (NABI). In August 2006, APHIS assisted in a risk assessment workshop under the auspices of NABI in Mexico City, Mexico. The workshop provided regulators from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., who are involved in the environmental safety review of genetically engineered plants, with the opportunity to work through several case studies that were conducted on genetically engineered plants at the field testing and commercialization phases. The workshop is part of an ongoing effort to foster a positive working relationship among the three countries to better harmonize their biotechnology regulatory systems.

The Agency also continued to participate in the U.S./China Biotechnology Working Group to exchange information and identify common approaches for regulation and communication regarding genetically

engineered plants. As a result of discussions with China, numerous research and cooperative projects were funded in FY 2006, including a U.S./China research project on insect resistance management of biotech cotton crops. APHIS also arranged for Chinese regulators to visit biotech crop field trials in the U.S. and to participate in a BRS sponsored risk communication workshop. Chinese government requested APHIS to speak and serve as a moderator in its first International Forum on Biotechnology. The purpose of the forum was to advance a more harmonized approach for the regulation and trade of biotechnology products.

Transgenic Animals

In April 2006, APHIS formed the Transgenic Animals Taskforce to begin defining and developing a regulatory framework for transgenic animals. Specific objectives of the taskforce included preparing a project plan for the related; completing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule (ANPR), and preparing and recommending options for the long-term structure of the staff needed to draft, implement, and enforce the new regulations. In October 2006, after discussion and analysis of the taskforce's staff structure recommendations, APHIS established a new division to continue activities begun by the taskforce including the completion and publication of the ANPR.

4. Environmental Compliance

The Environmental Compliance (EC) program provides support to APHIS programs to help them comply with various environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders. The primary is focus on compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

The EC program also supports the furtherance of a strong environmental ethic within APHIS by: 1) contributing sound, cost-effective environmental policy guidance; 2) providing clear options through which environmental initiatives can be pursued economically and efficiently; and 3) anticipating, whenever possible, Agency needs relative to its environmental responsibilities and recommending cost effective means through which those needs may be met.

Before implementing an action or activity, a Federal agency must consider the need for preparing an environmental document, either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). APHIS prepares an EIS when an action or a program has the potential to significantly impact the environment. During FY 2006, APHIS assisted the United States Forest Service in the review and drafting of the Gypsy Moth Supplemental EIS (SEIS). This included reviewing and commenting on the document and technical materials, such as a human health risk assessment and other technical papers, and ensuring that the SEIS accurately reflected APHIS policy. The program also continued to work on two EIS projects for regulation of a specific transgenic organism and for rules for the general regulation of plant biotechnology.

During FY 2006, APHIS completed 76 EAs. These documents do not require the in-depth analysis that an EIS requires because they are prepared for proposed actions that are not expected to result in significant impacts and are not as broad in scope as an EIS. However, APHIS prepares an EA to analyze the potential for environmental impacts of a proposed action that generally are classified in the EA category under APHIS NEPA regulations (7 CFR 372.5). One of the EAs prepared during FY 2006 is discussed below:

Importation of Certain Additional Commodities from BSE Minimal-risk Regions

APHIS prepared an environmental assessment for the proposed rulemaking to amend the regulations to allow additional commodities from regions that meet the definition of a bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) minimal-risk region (MRR). The initial BSE MRR regulation allows the importation of cattle younger than 30 months of age, according to certain requirements. Currently, Canada is the only country that meets the requirements of a MRR according to the MRR regulation implemented in January 2005. The implementation of the MRR regulation restored much of the earlier cattle import trade with Canada prior to the initial BSE find in a Canadian cow in May 2003.

The proposed rulemaking amending the MRR, expected to be published soon, would allow the importation of additional commodities from Canada as follows: bovines 30 months of age and older, provided that they are born on or after March 1, 1999; bovine small intestine (with the exception of the distal ileum); and bovine blood and blood products. From a public health perspective, a concern with regard to the importation of live bovines and bovine products from a BSE minimal-risk region is the potential for human exposure to BSE-infective tissues; human exposure to the BSE agent can result in the development of variant Cruetzfeld-Jacob disease. The EA associated with the amendment to the MRR regulation considers the potential impacts on public health and the physical environment with regard to allowing the additional commodities.

5. Physical Operational Security

The Physical and Operational Security program ensures the protection and security of all APHIS critical infrastructures (assets, research, personnel) from internal and external threats including domestic and international terrorism. The Program encompasses the facility and personnel security program for all of APHIS, including the research facilities, quarantine facilities, laboratories and Port Inspection Stations, as well as administers the Workplace Violence and other prevention programs.

During FY 2006, APHIS continued to increase security at our 17 mission critical facilities including the addition of a biosecurity level 3 Agricultural High Containment Laboratory/Greenhouse and a new Invasive Species Research Building at the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. These two facilities are at risk from animal rights special interest groups for destruction and arson. In addition, APHIS continued its testing program of technologies to support the new USDA smart card initiative.

The security program has been very aggressive and diligent in implementing security equal to or above the Federal standard. The following outlines the security measures implemented:

- Completed physical security upgrades for 20 State and District office facilities;
- Completed the annual Aviation Threat Assessments for 30 Aircraft and Hanger Facilities;
- Installed countermeasures such as close captioned television, access control, intrusion detection, fencing, lighting, and barriers at 42 APHIS facilities;
- Reviewed and modified guard service at 4 critical and secondary facilities;
- Installed safety precautions such as pesticide cabinets, explosive magazines, drugs, ammunition, and weapons safes in over 30 facilities, 40 vehicles, and private homes for APHIS wildlife technicians;
- Added 12 facilities into the National Access Control Enterprise (the system includes national identification/access cards of approximately 10,000 cardholders 1,000 card readers, over 1,400 alarm points, and approximately 150 cameras);
- Responded to over 30 threats to APHIS personnel or work place violence allegations;
- Conducted workplace violence training at 40 locations and educated over 1000 personnel;
- Exceeded U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) standards for access control and securing APHIS self contained irradiators;
- Reviewed and designed security for 6 new construction projects;
- Provided protection for 7 Horse Protection Act inspections;
- Provided emergency guard service for 6 terminations;
- Provided protection for an emergency capture and movement of 600 Bison.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-12

The Presidential Directive mandates a consolidated Human Resources/Information Technology/Security effort to identity proof all APHIS employees and contractors. APHIS designed and implemented the program to ensure all personnel have background investigations and are cleared prior to receiving their APHIS badge. In addition, the program provided USDA with the APHIS Security System to use as the

Department-wide physical and logical access system, as well as providing USDA with the expertise and personnel to develop the Departmental response and solution to the requirements mandates.

6. Plant Methods Development Labs

The Plant Methods Development Laboratories program goal is to provide advanced scientific and technological capabilities to protect and improve our nation's agriculture and public health. Plant Methods laboratories support APHIS plant health programs and emergency response capabilities by ensuring that accurate tools are available to detect and diagnose or identify plant pathogens, insect pests, and weeds. They also develop and evaluate quarantine treatments for commodities of trade and ensure that technology and protocols are effective and efficient. Additionally, the program evaluates biological control organisms and new biological and chemical materials; adapts or invents equipment for specific pest projects; provides technical consultation and training for APHIS personnel and their State and university cooperators; and serves as a liaison between APHIS and the research community.

Pest Exclusion and Detection Technology

To carry out its goal of safeguarding U.S. agricultural resources from foreign pest and disease introductions, APHIS needs the appropriate technological tools. The program aims to develop new or improve existing tools each year to enhance APHIS' safeguarding capabilities. The program met its FY 2006 performance target of developing five new quarantine treatments or detection methods or improving existing ones for commodities of trade. Among the accomplishments are new treatment schedules for a variety of imported commodities, including Chinese Ya-li pears, citrus (designed to target false coddling moth and exotic fruit flies), and wood packing materials as well as a "quick freeze" cold treatment for various commodities.

To enhance port-of-entry inspections, the program has developed and is testing a fast, field-friendly method to determine if a commodity has been fumigated with methyl bromide (a requirement for certain commodities). Once fully tested, the instrument, made with relatively inexpensive equipment, can be used in the field to determine within 1 to 3 hours whether a commodity has been fumigated.

In FY 2007, the program is continuing development of new tools to identify exotic pests intercepted at ports of entry, including molecular identification tools to differentiate exotic fruit fly species within the *Anastrepha* genus (which includes Mexican fruit fly), invasive slugs and snails, and exotic thrips. Once deployed by APHIS identifiers, the new molecular identification tool for *Anastrepha* fruit flies will cut the time required to make an identification from 2 days to 2 hours and allow port officials to take any necessary action that much sooner.

Emergency Response

The Plant Methods program supports APHIS emergency response efforts by ensuring that accurate diagnostic tools are available for use in responding to outbreaks of serious plant diseases and pests, such as potato cyst nematode, which was detected for the first time in the United States in April 2006. The program transitioned a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for potato cyst nematode from USDA's Agricultural Research Service and has nearly completed validation on the test. The program also conducted a review of the Golden Nematode program in New York and helped optimize and adapt its soil sampling methods for the emergency response potato cyst nematode program.

In FY 2006, the program also provided support for several high-priority APHIS programs, including soybean rust, citrus greening, and sudden oak death, among others. Additionally, the program participated in eight regional emergency preparedness exercises with the National Plant Diagnostic Network to ensure that diagnostic processes would run smoothly in the event of the detection of high-consequence plant pathogens, such as *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 Biovar 2.

Sterile Insect Technology (SIT)

Several APHIS programs release sterile insects to help control or eradicate targeted pest populations. The sterile insects distributed by APHIS mate with wild insects and prevent wild insects from reproducing normally. The Plant Methods Development laboratories work continually to refine tools and standard operating procedures for these technologically complex programs, making them more efficient or effective, or both.

In FY 2006, the program continued to support the expansion of the pink bollworm eradication program into Arizona and provided support to ongoing operations in Texas, New Mexico, and adjacent areas of Mexico with the delivery of a new ground release system for sterile insects, advanced flight recorder systems to monitor sterile insect delivery, and new GIS software mapping systems.

Program scientists are also continuing to improve sterile insect technology for the pink bollworm program with the use of genetically modified insects to replace irradiated insects. Irradiation is both expensive and has the potential to affect the insect's ability to mate. APHIS is currently preparing an environmental impact statement on the possible implementation of genetic engineering for improved sterile insect technology for both pink bollworm and fruit fly programs. With continued evaluation and the completion of environmental documentation, this cost-effective technology that eliminates the need to use irradiation may be ready for program delivery as early as FY 2008.

The program is also working to improve rearing processes for sterile fruit flies by reducing microbial contaminants in production facilities. Some studies indicate that losses of up to 20 percent of flies in production are possible due to microbial contaminants. The program identified two disinfectants for possible use as egg treatments that are effective in reducing both fungal and bacterial contaminants.

7. Veterinary Biologics

In FY 2006, APHIS issued 78 product licenses. As a result, veterinarians and animal owners now have 11 new products for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of animal diseases. Of the 11 new product licenses issued, five were issued for biotechnology-based products. The Agency also terminated 249 product licenses at licensee request for obsolete products as compared to 147 in FY 2005.

There were 2,348 active licensed or permitted products for the control of 210 animal diseases in FY 2006. APHIS approved 15,945 serials of veterinary biologics in FY 2006, while rejecting 12 serials for failing to meet Agency requirements. As part of the licensing process, APHIS conducted quality control testing was done on 12 master cells and 53 master seeds, the primary ingredients for production of biological products. APHIS conducted 85 on-site inspections; 30 percent were in support of a new establishment or product license for the industry. In FY 2006, there was a 12 percent increase in the number of investigations initiated as compared to FY 2005. The number of investigations involving the distribution of unlicensed veterinary biologics doubled in FY 2006. Investigations of licensed veterinary biologics manufacturers most frequently involved false or misleading advertising or the distribution of worthless, harmful, dangerous or contaminated product. APHIS also performed 85 regulatory actions, issued 28 warning notices, and conducted 53 investigations of possible regulation violations in FY 2006. In addition, the Agency received 301 adverse event reports related to veterinary biological products in FY 2006. APHIS shipped 3,860 vials of reagents to facilitate testing consistency and quality by biologics manufacturers and other regulatory authorities.

APHIS issued 2,494 official certificates that indicate licensed production and testing facilities and products have met or exceeded U.S. marketing requirements, which the regulated industry uses to register their products for sale in foreign countries. The confidence that foreign regulators have in the U.S. veterinary biologics licensing, testing, and inspection system is reflected in their readiness to accept U.S. regulated products. To further bolster confidence in our processes, Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) officials provided informational presentations at international conferences. In addition, CVB officials accompanied

foreign regulators during audits of U.S. manufacturers to provide them with additional information regarding the U.S. veterinary biologics regulations.

The veterinary biologics program continued efforts to reduce trade barriers that limit the sale of veterinary biological products overseas. Program officials continued technical and harmonization discussions with representatives of the American, Asian, European and U.S. biologics industries and regulatory officials. Individual meetings were held with regulatory officials from the European Union (EU), New Zealand, Canada, China, Australia, and Japan to facilitate exchange of information and encourage discussions of regulatory issues. CVB's participation in the Veterinary International Cooperation on Harmonization working groups led to the development of several new technical guidelines. Once implemented in each of the regions, these will serve as international standards and allow for increased trade between Japan, EU, and the United States.

The CVB continues to support the licensure and permitting of kits and vaccines for domestic and foreign animal diseases. This includes confirmatory testing of all diagnostic test kits for APHIS' animal disease programs at the CVB laboratory prior to release of each serial for sale and distribution. A plant-based vaccine for use in chickens that dramatically reduces the risk associated with veterinary vaccines was licensed. This new technology vaccine induces a protective response without using any ingredients of animal origin, the source of many extraneous organisms that could be found in conventional products. In response to swine industry concerns over the emergence of a new disease (porcine circovirus), CVB expedited the licensure of new vaccines against the agent responsible for post weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome in pigs. The recent emergence of this virus as a new pathogen in swine has caused millions of dollars in production losses and early reports on the efficacy of the vaccine indicate the production losses have decreased considerably. The first chimera vaccine was licensed to prevent disease caused by West Nile virus infection in horses 5 months of age or older. Since the licensing of this and other West Nile virus vaccines, the number of cases in horses has dropped from over 15,000 to less than 800. CVB also tested and released rabies vaccine baits for distribution in an expanded effort to create a rabies-free barrier across the Mid-Atlantic States. CVB provided biologics expertise to the initiative and ensured that adequate product was available for this program.

CVB developed a risk assessment for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) infectivity of animal origin ingredients in veterinary biologics that will be used to develop new regulations and establish policy on the importation of animals or animal products from low-risk BSE countries. With the successful eradication of pseudorabies virus from domestic swine and pending brucellosis eradication from cattle, there are a multitude of questions around the discontinuance of vaccination and manufacture of products for these diseases in the United States. CVB utilized the results from a Public Hearing in June 2005 to develop a national strategy of short- and long-term policies for the use of vaccine and diagnostic test kits in these programs. Prior to finalizing the strategy, CVB solicited and confirmed support from state regulatory officials. As a result, the strategic document will be made available to allow the biologics industry to better plan for production of regulated products over the next decade.

8. Veterinary Diagnostics

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is unique in its functions: serving as the United States' national and international reference laboratory for animal diseases; conducting disease surveillance testing, providing national leadership in coordination and emergency laboratory response; training State and university laboratory personnel; providing proficiency testing; and, developing improved diagnostic technologies. A National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) was established to address significant emergent biological and chemical threats, including foreign animal diseases and bioterrorist threats, to animal agriculture and to a secure food supply in the United States. Under the NAHLN business model, the NVSL's diagnostic testing operations will be used primarily for confirmatory testing of samples identified by the NAHLN laboratories as inconclusive in keeping with its reference laboratory role.

APHIS and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service have established contracts with several State and university diagnostic laboratories to assist with testing and surveillance efforts. These contracts incorporate 54 State/university laboratories; the Department of the Interior (DOI) laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin; the Food Safety and Inspection Services laboratory in Athens, Georgia; and, the NVSL in Ames, Iowa and Plum Island, New York for a total of 58 labs in 45 States. The NAHLN member laboratories are trained and proficiency tested by APHIS on an annual or semi-annual basis. NAHLN laboratories are currently participating in USDA surveillance efforts by performing screening assays and forwarding any suspect or positive samples to the appropriate section of the NVSL for confirmatory testing. The NVSL Diagnostic Virology Laboratory in Ames is the only internationally recognized avian influenza (AI) reference laboratory in the United States.

A "Train the Trainer" program has been developed and implemented for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Classic Swine Fever (CSF), AI, and Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) rapid assays. This program has increased the number of State/university laboratories approved to conduct the CSF and FMD assays from 14 to 31. The program has also increased the number approved to conduct AI and END testing from 44 to 49 State/university laboratories and the DOI laboratory. Not only has the program increased the number of laboratory personnel prepared to respond to a national animal health emergency, but it has also provided the United States with a cadre of trainers available to teach others when needed. Successful implementation of this program is a significant step for the network and its mission of ensuring sufficient diagnostic capability and capacity to address an animal health emergency.

A surveillance plan for CSF was developed and phase one was implemented in FY 2006 in States with a high risk for introduction of CSF, including Puerto Rico. Thus far, 12 State/university NAHLN laboratories have been testing samples and 18 other State/university NAHLN laboratories have assisted with sample collection and processing. The number of laboratories participating in surveillance testing will increase to 18 in 2007; and an additional 14 laboratories will assist with sample collection and processing. Confirmatory testing is performed at the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Plum Island, New York.

Since June 2004, seven State/university NAHLN laboratories have participated in enhanced BSE surveillance testing. As of September 30, 2006, they have completed more than 797,000 tests. Confirmatory testing is performed at the Pathobiology Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. Surveillance for chronic wasting disease and scrapie is also occurring in 26 State/university NAHLN labs.

A critical aspect of the NAHLN is the effort to standardize data, improve data quality, and maximize the efficiency of data transfer via the information technology (IT) infrastructure and data repository. The NAHLN IT system is being integrated with numerous existing animal health and veterinary diagnostic data networks to allow seamless electronic transfer of information from the time diagnostic samples are collected in the field, to the addition of appropriate diagnostic test information from the NAHLN veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and finally to the daily reporting of relevant information from each submission to the NAHLN repository database. The IT system is used to enhance surveillance programs and recognize emerging issues and is designed to provide automated alerts on defined animal health events to authorized personnel who support disease prevention and response. The system allows NAHLN labs to securely transmit and store data using nationally recognized health information standards that improve data quality and data re-use in systems. The NAHLN IT system has been piloted in five laboratories and is currently expanding to 30 additional labs. Training courses on IT messaging were provided to NAHLN laboratory personnel in FY 2006.

NAHLN Methods Technical Working Group was established in July 2006 and consists of personnel from NAHLN laboratories and APHIS. The working group will provide input on various aspects of methods validation and approval of methods including the following: review of available methods and associated gaps; identification of potential new technologies; validation criteria; dossier review; assay approval process; equivalency of modified methods or for adaptation to new platforms; continual performance

assessment of assays; development of performance characteristic summary documents for NAHLN assays; and issues associated with transfer of existing and new technologies to laboratories.

NAHLN is a participating member of the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) which is a multi-Department and multi-Agency effort led by the Department of Homeland Security. The ICLN includes representation of public and animal and plant health response networks. This group is working towards identifying gaps in surveillance and diagnostic efforts of national importance and mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of information and resources between networks.

APHIS exceeded its long-term performance measure target of FY 2006 which was to have 43 States included within the NAHLN. At the end of FY 2006, the NAHLN consisted of 58 State, university, and Federal laboratories in 45 States that are available to assist in animal disease testing and combine to form the nation's strongest weapon against bioterrorism.

9. Wildlife Services Methods Development

APHIS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) employs more than 150 scientists, technicians, and support personnel at its Fort Collins, Colorado headquarters and at field stations in several other States. NWRC organizes its research under four programs: bird research, mammal research, wildlife disease research, and product development research. APHIS surpassed its 2006 performance target of testing and/or improving 15 wildlife damage management methods by four.

NWRC's Bird Research Program focuses on reducing bird damage to crops and aquaculture facilities, reducing bird-aircraft collisions, developing new repellants, and reducing predation losses and property damage. At our field office in Sandusky, Ohio field station, our scientists adapted small radars (originally designed for use on ships) to monitor activity of birds on and near airfields where they present a hazard to aircraft. The new radar systems operate unattended to collect data on bird movement remotely in real time, which reduces the time wildlife biologists spend visually observing wildlife on airfields. With this data, wildlife biologists can mitigate wildlife hazards to aircrafts and increase air traffic and air passenger safety. At the NWRC headquarters, our scientists discovered that caffeine is a bird repellent that can protect newly planted rice and ripening rice. We collaborated with the Louisiana State University Rice Experiment Station to develop and test formulations and application strategies that foster germination of newly planted rice and reduce phyto-toxicity while maintaining the bird repellent effects of the formulation. This research provides an effective bird repellent for rice without affecting yield and may apply to other crops susceptible to bird depredations. At the Starkville, Mississippi field station, our biologists determined the impact of foraging by double-crested cormorants on the catfish industry, valued at more than $400 million per year in the United States, with nearly 65 percent of production in Mississippi. We calculated the distribution and abundance of these cormorants in the delta region of Mississippi and estimated losses to the catfish industry to be $9.8-13.2 million annually. This data documents the economic impact of cormorant depredations on the catfish industry and provides information on distribution patterns of cormorants, which is critical to developing efficient management plans to reduce aquaculture losses by fish eating birds.

NWRC's Mammal Research Program examines the ecology, behavior, and management of mammalian predators in relation to livestock, game animals, and threatened and endangered species; develops methods for reducing invasive species damage in islands; and provides solutions to problems associated with foraging animals. At our field office in Hilo, Hawaii, our scientists redesigned openings at bait stations to exclude non-targeted species. We determined the minimum hole size and maximum platform height that could be accessed by Polynesian rats, Norway rats, roof rats, and house mice, which are commonly found in and adjacent to native conservation areas in Hawaii and the Pacific region. The method modifications continue deployment of pest rodent control bait stations while offering protection for non-target wildlife and threatened and endangered species. At the Logan, Utah field station, our scientists evaluated four coyote capture systems for animal damage management. We tested these systems for capturing coyotes in Arizona and Texas. The need for alternative predator capture techniques is increasing because of concerns of efficiency, selectivity, and injury of animals with current methods. These studies are useful for

operational biologists in making selections for efficient traps that reduce the unnecessary injury potential to the target animal. At our field station in Olympia, Washington, our scientists examined four toxicants and determined that chlorophacinone is an appropriate toxicant for mountain beaver control. We conducted a series of studies on these toxicants and received the Environmental Protection Agency's approval to use chlorophacinone for mountain beaver control. Mountain beavers cause more damage to tree seedlings and 10 to 15 year-old trees than any other mammal species. Attempts to manage mountain beaver through repellants, barriers, and trapping are costly and not always productive. In addition, the most reliable method to control mountain beaver populations, trapping, is becoming less politically and socially acceptable. Therefore, alternative tools to traps to control mountain beaver populations are desirable. An additional tool is now available for the protection of forest products from mountain beaver damage.

NWRC's Wildlife Disease Research Program explores ways to reduce the spread and transmission of diseases from wildlife to humans and domestic animals; monitor wildlife for pathogens; provide risk assessments for agriculture and human health safety; and assist APHIS' wildlife programs for surveillance and monitoring efforts. At the NWRC headquarters, our scientists developed and validated a quick rectal biopsy method for detecting chronic wasting disease (CWD) in pre-clinically infected elk. Until now, there was no practical live test for detecting CWD in elk. The Agency worked collaboratively on this effort with Colorado State University, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and several private elk ranchers. APHIS' CWD program and private elk ranchers use the new method to evaluate CWD infections in the elk population. This method replaces a post-mortem biopsy. At our field station in Kingsville, Texas, our researchers observed the attraction and regular interaction of feral hogs to domestic swine, indicating that feral hogs are a significant threat for transmission and reintroduction of diseases to domestic swine in southern Texas. We used radio telemetry, and photographic and video equipment to document feral hog movement. The evidence showed that feral hogs visited pens with domestic sows during 49 percent of the nights and occasionally the feral hogs attempted to climb into the pens. At the NWRC headquarters, our scientists conducted research on gray fox movement to improve design and implementation of the oral rabies vaccination (ORV) zones. We collaborated with the Texas Department of Health Services and initiated ecological studies of gray fox to support ORV activities in Texas. The objective of the study was to document the movements and the potential of long-distance movements of gray fox to and from a rabies outbreak. The telemetry data suggests that fox move considerable distances, often extending their range beyond the ORV protection zone. These findings are significant because they indicate that male gray fox will move considerable distances in this area and longer movements could potentially breach the ORV zone.

NWRC's Product Development Research Program encompasses studies for pesticide registration, formulation chemistry, chemical analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and wildlife contraceptive development. At our field station in Olympia, Washington, our biologists and chemists conducted experiments to determine certain food-grade materials to be repellants to reduce deer consumption of resources. We determined that milk casein and egg albumen deter browsing deer that inflict damage to crops and ornamentals as well as impede reforestation efforts. These experiments suggest that a repellent formulation made with purified hydrolyzed casein used for nutritional and health applications effectively reduces browse damage and is a promising tool for protecting seedlings in reforested areas. At the NWRC headquarters, our scientists developed and tested many types of wildlife contraceptives including GonaCon. This is a vaccine, which has been highly effective in producing safe and reversible infertility in captive white-tailed deer and in other mammalian species such as bison, wild horses, domestic and feral swine, domestic cats, California ground squirrels, and brown rats. GonaCon is now available as a one-injection formulation that is much more practical for field delivery to free-ranging wildlife than earlier, two-injection contraceptive agents.

CONTINGENCY FUNDS

1. Asian Gypsy Moth

In FY 2006, APHIS released $762,944 in contingency funds to conduct eradication activities for Asian gypsy moth (AGM) at two sites in California and one in Texas. Unlike European gypsy moth, which is established in the eastern United States, Asian gypsy moth is not endemic in this country, but is periodically introduced. It not only has a much broader host range than its European relative, but can spread rapidly because the female is capable of flying 25 miles (unlike the flightless European gypsy moth female). When Asian gypsy moth is detected in the United States, APHIS and affected States respond quickly with delimiting surveys and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) treatments. To ensure that eradication of these three spot infestations was successful, APHIS will conduct enhanced trapping activities in these areas in FY 2007.

2. Emerald Ash Borer

In FY 2006, APHIS released $198,000 in contingency funds in to conduct studies furthering the development of an effective trap and lure for the emerald ash borer (EAB). Because EAB was unknown before its 2002 detection in Michigan, the survey and management tools available to the program are extremely limited. Preliminary work by APHIS and cooperating scientists had identified several tree volatiles that produce reactions in EAB antenna in the laboratory, and the contingency funds were provided to Pennsylvania State University to conduct additional work determining which specific compounds produce responses in the beetles and how they regulate host and mate finding in this species. The studies identified chemicals that females use to identify stressed trees and visual and chemical cues that males use to locate females. These findings will ultimately be useful in developing attractants for use in traps and potentially in control methods utilizing attractants.

3. European Gypsy Moth

APHIS released $779,874 in contingency funds to eradicate five isolated European gypsy moth infestations in FY 2006. Three areas in Ohio and one each in Indiana and Washington State required treatment. The European gypsy moth is established in the eastern United States, but APHIS works to prevent human-assisted spread of the naturally slow moving pest by eliminating isolated infestations. APHIS treated approximately 790 acres in total in FY 2006 and will conduct enhanced trapping activities in these areas in FY 2007 to ensure that eradication efforts were successful.

4. Plum Pox Compensation

APHIS released $2.164 million from its contingency fund in FY 2006 to pay compensation claims related to the removal of trees to prevent the spread of plum pox. These claims are related to the removal of approximately 130 acres, and the amending of the compensation rule to provide payments for fourth and – if necessary – fifth years to growers in areas where the program could not complete eradication and allow growers to replant after three years. To date, USDA has paid growers approximately $20 million, an average of $12,399 per acre. USDA compensation represents 85 percent of the value loss and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has paid the remaining 15 percent. Without the compensation program, growers may attempt to earn some profit by selling diseased products. Such fruit movement would increase the risk of the virus moving beyond the four counties in Pennsylvania in which APHIS has successfully contained PPV. This would be counter to APHIS' strategic objective to "manage issues related to the health of U.S. animal and plant resources and conflicts with wildlife." Continued cooperation in the destruction of privately owned trees is vital to the control and eventual eradication of this disease.

5. Sirex

In FY 2006 APHIS released $800,000 in contingency funds to address *Sirex noctilio*, an exotic woodwasp first found in New York State. APHIS and its cooperators conducted delimiting and detection surveys in New York and expanded survey efforts into Pennsylvania and Vermont, as portions of these States are within 150 miles of the core infestation in New York and Canada. While the wasp was not found to be present in Vermont, it was detected in two Pennsylvania counties and 20 additional New York counties, bringing the known infested area in western New York to 25 counties. The insect is native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa, where it is generally a secondary pest. But in areas where it has been inadvertently introduced (New Zealand, Australia, several South American countries, and South Africa), it has caused up to 80 percent tree mortality in plantations with North American pine species. APHIS completed a pest risk assessment for *Sirex noctilio* to assist in developing an effective regulatory program by identifying materials capable of spreading the pest. Program officials are continuing development of Federal quarantine policy for the affected area to prevent human-assisted spread of the pest. APHIS also made progress in developing a long-term biological control management strategy for *Sirex noctilio,* utilizing a parasitic nematode that, once established, will hopefully reduce population levels and the attending damage caused by the pest. APHIS is conducting a controlled release of the agent in FY 2007 to confirm that it will survive winter temperatures while continuing the environmental assessment process necessary to ensure that it will not have unintended effects on the environment.

6. Tuberculosis

APHIS released $616,051 in contingency funds to support tuberculosis eradication activities in FY 2006. The funds were used to depopulate a herd in Minnesota to prevent further spread of the disease in the State. Although the herd was depopulated, Minnesota was not able to retain its TB status. The State was downgraded to Modified Accredited Advanced in 2006.

Summary of FY 2006 Contingency Fund Releases

	Activity	FY 2006 Releases from Contingency *
1	Emerald Ash Borer	198,000
2	Tuberculosis	616,051
3	Asian Gyspy Moth	762,944
4	European Gypsy Moth	799,784
5	Sirex	800,000
6	Plum Pox Virus Compensation a/	2,163,866
7	Emerald Ash Borer	0
8	Mexican Fruit Fly	0
	Total FY 2006 Contingency Transfers	5,340,645

a/ Includes $420,000 in redirected balances: $320, from Tuberculosis; $50,000 from European Gypsy Moth; and $50,000 from Sirex.

EMERGENCY FUND TRANSFERS FROM COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION (CCC)

1. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Between FYs 2004 and 2006, the Secretary of Agriculture made a total of $116.9 million available to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to respond to detections of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Alberta, Canada, and the United States, and to implement an enhanced BSE surveillance program in the United States. At the beginning of FY 2006, there was approximately $16.4 million remaining to continue enhanced BSE surveillance activities. In addition, APHIS utilized another $35.4 million from redirected CCC balances and new transfers to continue the enhanced surveillance program.

During FY 2006, APHIS used $51.8 million in CCC funding to complete the enhanced BSE surveillance program. To reach as many targeted cattle as possible, samples were taken from farms, slaughter facilities, rendering facilities, livestock auctions, veterinary clinics, and public health laboratories. The enhanced BSE surveillance effort followed many of the approaches recommended in the APHIS Veterinary Services Safeguarding Review. Specifically, rapid screening tests were used, and testing took place at a network of State laboratories. Sample collectors used tablet or hand-held computers for entering and transmitting the electronic submission form, and information was maintained on a Web-based data entry system. APHIS and its cooperators used net conferences to provide training on identifying the target population and procedures for sample collection and submission. APHIS ensured quality control through a third party review of the process.

Between June 1, 2004, and August 2006, more than 780,000 BSE tests were run, and in FY 2006, USDA released two reports related to BSE surveillance. The first was a summary report of the data collected as part of the enhanced surveillance efforts. The second was a draft analysis that estimated the prevalence of BSE in the United States, drawn from data collected during both the enhanced surveillance effort and previous surveillance. This analysis concluded that the prevalence of BSE in the United States is extremely low, with less than one case per million head of adult cattle. This estimate was submitted to a peer review process in accordance with Office of Management and Budget guidelines. The peer review panelists agreed with our estimate of BSE prevalence.

2. Citrus Canker

In FY 2006, APHIS had $401 million available to compensate eligible citrus growers whose trees had been removed by the Citrus Canker Eradication Program. This total consisted of $400 million which the Secretary transferred from Section 32, and $1 million in carryover emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). By the end of FY 2006, APHIS had paid approximately $376 million of this total to claimants, including all eligible nursery claims. In October 2006, APHIS received an additional $100 million in funds transferred from Section 32 to settle all remaining eligible claims. After this $100 million is paid, APHIS will have paid $636 million to claimants for lost production and future loss of income since the program began in FY 1996. The order of payment is based on the order of the dates on which owners received Immediate Final Orders for the destruction of their trees. To be eligible for payment, grove owners had to have received an Immediate Final Order for tree destruction by January 10, 2006, when USDA officially modified the program goal from eradication to management.

3. Emerald Ash Borer

In FY 2006, APHIS had available $19.7 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funding to address Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), including $7.567 million that was released to address the detection of the pest in Illinois for the first time; $7.5 million in redirected funding for ongoing activities; and approximately $4.5 million in carryover funds from the previous year.

On June 9, 2006, APHIS confirmed the detection of the EAB in Illinois for the first time. A homeowner in Kane County (about 40 miles outside of Chicago) discovered the beetle and alerted APHIS officials, who sent the insect to the Agency EAB field laboratory in Michigan for confirmatory identification and notified the Illinois Department of Agriculture. APHIS and Illinois began intensive delimiting surveys in summer 2006 and found three additional infested sites, for a total of four outbreaks. Delimiting surveys are continuing into FY 2007 to ensure that these sites are distinct outbreaks and that the extent of the infestation is known before the program begins control activities. When the surveys are complete, program officials will target heavily infested trees for removal to reduce the overall pest population density and help prevent the infestation from spreading while in FY 2007 determining what additional actions are necessary. APHIS will continue to address the Illinois detection. In FY 2006, APHIS provided approximately $915,000 to Wisconsin for detection surveys as the Illinois outbreak is not far from the State line.

With the remaining CCC funds, APHIS continued ongoing survey, regulatory, and control activities in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, and Virginia. The program confirmed detections of the pest in 24 new counties outside the generally infested area (including two in Illinois) and had quarantined more than 24,500 square miles by the end of FY 2006. In cooperation with the affected States, APHIS conducted intensive surveys and maintained 217 regulatory compliance agreements with businesses that deal with regulated EAB host materials. The program also conducted an intensive outreach campaign in the summer of FY 2006 to reach residents and travelers in and near affected areas and warn them of the risk of spreading EAB through firewood.

Because EAB was unknown before its first U.S. detection in 2002, the program has been limited by the lack of an effective survey trap and practical, cost-effective control tools. However, APHIS and cooperating scientists have identified several promising chemical treatments and biological control agents, and program officials believe several treatment options will be available by FY 2009. Until these treatment options are available, the program is concentrating on the survey, regulatory, and outreach activities described above.

4. Exotic New Castle Disease

On October 1, 2002—after Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was detected in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California—the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and USDA-APHIS activated emergency response systems and began a disease eradication campaign. The Secretary transferred $226 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to support this effort. APHIS, CDFA, and many other cooperating Federal, State, and local entities have carried out eradication and surveillance activities to contain the spread of the disease and eradicate it from the States where it has been detected: Arizona, California, Nevada, and Texas. In FY 2005, APHIS used approximately $7 million of prior year END CCC recoveries to continue surveillance and biosecurity activities. In addition, the Agency redirected $1.7 million of its END carryover to the citrus canker response in Florida and $4.25 million to support the enhanced bovine spongiform encephalopathy surveillance effort.

The outreach and surveillance activities of the Avian Health Group (AHG) has focused on high-risk and often underserved bird owners with the goal of rapidly detecting an introduction of END or avian influenza (AI). During FY 2006, the AHG made 1,749 bilingual phone and in-person contacts (English and Spanish) explaining how to identify poultry diseases (specifically END and AI) and notify USDA or CDFA if a bird is suspected to be infected. The AHG also conducted 47 in-person biosecurity training sessions for 173 individuals, and maintains a web site that provides information on how to recognize sick birds and the clinical signs of END and AI. This web site, which received 23,314 hits in FY 2006, includes an avian biosecurity training module. Four hundred seventy-four (474) individuals completed the module and received certificates of completion from the AHG in FY 2006. Since its inception in the Fall of 2006, the AHG has conducted 70 training sessions on biosecurity, AI, and END for 1,464 California animal control and law enforcement personnel in 20 counties. In FY 2006 the AHG responded to 335 sick bird calls. Field employees collected 13,600 samples (surveillance and sick calls—cloacal and pharyngeal swabs, blood, carcasses, and sick birds) from 32,837 birds. [Samples may be pools of up to 5 swabs (birds) from backyard premises, live bird (custom slaughter) markets, feed and pet stores, auctions, and swap meets.] In

February 2006, AHG employees began training to utilize novel data collection technologies under the CA Pilot (Bar Coding) Project. By March 2006, AHG field employees used these tools routinely as the principle data collection system.

5. Mexfly

APHIS spent approximately $1 million in CCC carryover funds to respond to a detection of Mexfly in southern California in FY 2006. In response to the detection, APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture released between 750,000 and 800,000 sterile Mexflies per square mile in the Los Angeles County neighborhood where the outbreak occurred. The successful effort prevented the pest from becoming established in the area.

6. Plum Pox

In FY 2006, APHIS had $735,000 in carryover funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation for plum pox program operations. These funds were used along with $2.2 million in appropriated funding to support plum pox surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan.

APHIS continued ongoing program operations in Pennsylvania. While several infested trees were found in Pennsylvania, less than 0.003 percent of all samples taken in the State tested positive in FY 2006. APHIS is evaluating the practical and scientific feasibility of releasing most of the original Pennsylvania core area from regulation. This area has tested negative for 3 years.

Plum pox was detected in New York and Michigan for the first time in FY 2006. The program responded with intensive delimiting surveys and destroyed the four positive trees that were initially found. APHIS will continue to evaluate the situation.

7. Potato Cyst Nemotode

In FY 2006, the Secretary of Agriculture transferred $12.878 million to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation to respond to the detection of Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) in Idaho. PCN is a major pest of potato crops in cool-temperate areas and is one of the most difficult potato pests to control. Following the initial detection of PCN in April 2006, APHIS and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture implemented an intensive soil survey and traceback program to delimit the extent of the outbreak. In FY 2006, the program collected 19,687 soil samples from 425 field and facilities in Idaho. By the end of October 2006, the program had completed its survey of the affected area in Idaho and found seven fields that were positive for PCN, all of which are located within a one-mile radius of the initial detection. APHIS has implemented a regulatory program establishing quarantine measures that will prevent any artificial spread of PCN. Potato growers, shippers, and processors that handle potatoes from the affected area must sign compliance agreements with APHIS agreeing to meet the quarantine requirements, and all farm equipment from infested fields must be cleaned according to APHIS requirements before being moved to other fields. APHIS is currently launching a national PCN detection survey in the 36 other potato-producing States to determine if the pest is present in other areas of the country.

8. Rabies

APHIS' National Rabies Management Program works with State cooperators to contain specific strains of the rabies virus in raccoons, coyotes, and gray foxes. In FY 2005 through 2006, there were several breaches in the Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) barrier, which required emergency attention to prevent the spread of rabies. In FY 2006 the Secretary transferred $2.87 million to address six high priority emergencies in Alabama, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas. By using the emergency funds, APHIS was able to maintain the integrity of the strategically established ORV containment barriers in the eastern United States and Texas. Without the use of these emergency funds, the Agency would not have been able to prevent heightened risks of additional barrier compromises in the future.

9. Spring Viremia Of Carp

In FY 2003, the Secretary of Agriculture transferred a total of $11.7 million to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to address spring viremia of carp (SVC) in the United States. At the beginning of FY 2006, there was approximately $4.2 million remaining for enhanced SVC surveillance activities, indemnification and disposal, and cleaning and disinfection of SVC affected sites.

During FY 2006, APHIS used $1.23 million of these remaining funds to support an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out SVC surveillance testing to determine whether the disease has become established in wild populations. In addition, APHIS used these funds to support additional sample collection at various sites around the country; sample analysis at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories; and a term employee in the Eastern Region to manage the SVC program.

10. Tuberculosis

In FY 2003, a total of $65.8 million to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to address tuberculosis in the United States, specifically in Arizona, California, Michigan, New Mexico, the El Paso milkshed area of Texas, and in sites epidemiologically linked to herds affected in these States. At the beginning of FY 2006, there was approximately $9.1 million in CCC funds remaining for tuberculosis eradication activities. In addition, the Secretary transferred an additional $3.521 million to APHIS during FY 2006 to support tuberculosis surveillance, testing, and task force activities in Michigan, Minnesota, and States epidemiologically linked to herds found in these areas.

During FY 2006, APHIS used approximately $9.2 million on tuberculosis eradication activities, including indemnifying the owners of a large dairy in Arizona, as well as purchasing affected or exposed cattle in other Western States. This funding also supported Tuberculosis task force activities in Minnesota that will continue in FY 2007. Task force activities include enhanced surveillance and testing, epidemiologic tracing, and any necessary cleaning and disinfection work associated with exposed and affected herds.

Summary of FY 2006 CCC Transfers and Redirected Amounts

	Activity	FY 2006 Transferred and Redirected Amounts	Prior Year Carry Over	Total Available in FY 2006
1	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	$35,400,000	$24,205,319	$59,605,319
2	Citrus Canker	0	1,597,871	1,597,871
3	Emerald Ash Borer	15,067,551	9,450,668	24,518,219
4	Exotic Newcastle Disease	0	12,384,682	12,384,682
5	Mexican Fruit Fly (Mexfly)	500,000	3,520,914	4,020,914
6	Plum Pox	0	702,432	702,432
7	Potato Cyst Nematode	12,878,566	3,769,285	16,647,851
8	Rabies	2,870,000	0	2,870,000
9	Spring Veremia of Carp	0	4,124,259	4,124,259
10	Tuberculosis	3,521,000	2,000,000	5,521,000
	Total FY 2006 CCC Transfers	$70,237,117 a/	$61,755,430	$131,992,547

a/ Includes $15,210,000 in redirected balances $11,206,825 from END, $1,287,199 from Med Fruit Fly (FL/CA), $1,582,865 from Med Fruit Fly (Tijuana), $1,133,000 from MexFly (CA), $7,500,000 from EAB), $500,000 from MexFly (TX), and $7,210,000 from BSE).

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Proposed Language Changes

The estimates include proposed changes in the language of this item as follows: (new language is underscored):

Buildings 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. 428a, $8,931,000, to remain available until expended.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The APHIS appropriation "Buildings and Facilities" funds major nonrecurring construction projects in support of specific program activities and recurring construction, alterations, preventive maintenance, and repairs of existing APHIS facilities.

CR Level, 2007	$5,946,000
Budget Estimate, 2008	8,931,000
Increase in Appropriation	+2,985,000

SUMMARY OF INCREASES AND DECREASES
(on basis of appropriation)

Item of Change	2007 CR Level	Program Changes		2008 Estimated
Basic buildings and facilities repair, alterations, and preventive maintenance	$5,946,000	+2,985,000	(1a)	$8,931,000

PROJECT STATEMENT
(On basis of available funds)

Item of Change	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	Program Changes	2008 Estimated
Unobligated balance available, start of year	$10,349,234	$7,353,377	--	$3,379,377
Recovery from prior years	2,081,062	--	--	--
Total, Appropriation	4,946,040	5,946,000	2,985,000	8,931,000
Total, Available	17,376,336	13,299,377	--	12,310,377
Total obligations	-10,022,959	-9,920,000	--	-6,932,000
Total, Unobligated balance available, end of year	$7,353,377	$3,379,377	--	$5,378,377

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Justification of Increases and Decreases
Buildings and Facilities

1) An increase of $2,985,000 and 0 staff years for Building and Facilities activities;

a) An increase of $2,985,000 and 0 staff years for the Buildings and Facilities account ($5,946,000 and 0 staff years available in 2007.

APHIS' Buildings and Facilities account funds major nonrecurring construction projects in support of specific program activities and recurring construction, alterations, preventive maintenance, and repairs of existing APHIS facilities. Maintaining the condition and functionality of the buildings and facilities is an ongoing process, demanding significant management of capital resources. State and local authorities closely monitor our facilities and require that repairs, upgrades, and replacements be completed in a timely manner and in accordance with code. Public Law 100-678, Public Buildings Amendments of 1988, requires local approval of government construction projects regardless of whether the facility is on Federal property.

In FY 2000, APHIS embarked upon a comprehensive Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA) program to: better understand the existing condition of facilities; strategically maintain them by identifying deficiencies and funding needs; stabilize the current facilities repair backlog; predict future maintenance needs; and, implement financial management and capital asset improvement efforts in support of the President's Management Agenda.

In FY 2008, APHIS is requesting an increase of $2.985 million to continue the comprehensive FCA program. APHIS will use $2.528 million of the increase to address the following deficiencies at Moore air Base, Mission, Texas: upgrade fire alarm systems; repair electrical distribution systems; upgrade HVAC systems; upgrade sprinkler systems; demolish buildings with asbestos-containing materials; investigate suspected foundation movement; and upgrade emergency power systems.

The Agency will use the remaining $457,000 of the increase to address the following identified deficiencies at the National Wildlife Research Center field station in Olympia, Washington: remove asbestos-containing materials, remove lead paint, upgrade the emergency lighting and power system, and upgrade the fire alarm system.

Since the inception of the program, 15 of the existing APHIS facilities have been assessed. The Facilities Condition Index (FCI) is ratio of the total cost of the repairs to the replacement cost of the facility. Based on the FCA program review completed by VFA, Inc. in January 2005, APHIS' facilities have an overall FCI rating of 0.32. This indicates that 32 percent of the estimated replacement value for the 15 facilities has been identified as currently being deficient or anticipated to need correction in the next five years. The requested funding will address the most severe code compliance and environmental deficiencies of APHIS' facilities. With the requested increase, the program will reduce the FCI from 0.32 in FY 2006 to 0.29 by FY 2010.

The requested funding will improve the condition and functionality of existing facilities and decrease the safety and health risks for APHIS employees. The funding will reduce the backlog of deferred code compliance and environmental deficiencies identified in the assessed APHIS facilities. The funding will also alleviate yearly increases in costs that would result from delaying the remedy of a requirement.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
BUILDING AND FACILITIES
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years
2006 Actual and CR Level 2007 and 2008

	FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
United States:						
Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	0	0	0	0
California	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	$727,104	0	0	0	0	0
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	189,672	0	$1,907,254	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	650,000	0	0	0
Hawaii	49,217	0	1,040,000	0	0	0
Idaho	183,678	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa	1,799,668	0	2,125,988	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	1,466,200	0	214,099	0	0	0
Massachusetts	200,853	0	79,827	0	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	178,244	0	28,000	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	102,511	0	70,587	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevada	0	0	170,830	0	0	0
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0
New York	126,091	0	879,308	0	0	0
North Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	68,250	0	68,250	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	1,674,038	0	1,951,857	0	$6,361,000	0
Utah	197,841	0	0	0	0	0
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	1,858,525	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0

	FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	633,432	0	0	0	0	0
Central America						
Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, Central America	0	0	0	0	0	0
South America						
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, South America	0	0	0	0	0	0
Europe/Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia/Pacific:						
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, Asia/Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Obligations (See below)	567,635		734,000		571,000	
Total direct obligations	$10,022,959	0	$9,920,000	0	$6,932,000	0
Other Obligations:						
HMMA Matching Funds	$ 133,511		$ 134,000		$ 134,000	
A/E Services	$ 382,996		$ 400,000		$ 385,000	
Construction Contingency	$ 51,128		$ 200,000		$ 52,000	

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Classification by Objects
2006 Actual and Estimated 2007 and 2008
($000)

		2006	2007	2008
Other Objects:				
25.2	Other services	$8,390	$8,000	$5,400
26	Supplies and materials	1,633	1,920	1,532
	Total, other objects	10,023	9,920	6,932
Total direct obligations		$10,023	$9,920	$6,932

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

STATUS OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Current Activities:

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. The ongoing major construction projects as of September 30, 2005 are:

National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory, Phases 1 & 2, Beltsville, MD
APHIS took beneficial occupancy of 75 percent of the new facilities in the first quarter of FY 2004. The remaining 25 percent of the project consists of the Biosafety Level-3 Agricultural High Containment Laboratory/Greenhouse. APHIS is working on correcting a latent defect with the sewer line under the basement floor slab of this building. Upon completion of this difficult repair, APHIS will take acceptance of this final part of the project.

The National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory support APHIS' safeguarding efforts and eradication through the development of diagnostic technology for plant pathogens and quarantine testing protocols and programs. The laboratory will operate a biosecurity level 3 greenhouse where diagnostic work can be conducted on dangerous plant pathogens, such as those on APHIS's Select Agents list (mandated by the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002).

Ames Master Plan for Facility Consolidation and Modernization Lab, Ames, IA
This project is a joint undertaking of APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories and Center for Veterinary Biologics, and ARS' National Animal Disease Center. Bringing these programs together at one site will lead to greater efficiencies of operation, even closer collaborative work and the fostering of a world-class animal disease research and service culture. The combined facilities are being referred to as the National Centers for Animal Health. The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has the lead for managing construction of the entire Master Plan project. A groundbreaking ceremony occurred in December 2002, and Phase I was completed in FY 2004. There has been significant progress made on the Ames Modernization Project during FY 2006. The final touches are being made to the High Containment Large Animal Facility (BSL-3AG), and the commissioning phase has begun. Acceptance of the building should occur in February 2007. Excavation work for Phase 2 of the Consolidated Laboratory Facilities began in September 2005, and the concrete and steel work on the three story complex is nearing completion. The facilities will house the majority of the laboratory space as well as administrative offices, training facilities, vivarium, and support services. It is scheduled for completion in January 2009. Design of the Low Containment Large Animal Facility has been completed and the construction contract awarded. Construction should begin in March 2007 with a completion date of October 2008.

Once completed, this facility will provide an integrated, multidisciplinary scientific capability combining animal disease research with the development of diagnostic tools and vaccines. With the globalization of trade heralded through the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization and its reference to a science base, agricultural animal disease needs have become more global. Modern, fully equipped facilities to accommodate and respond to these needs are essential.

Miami Airport Facility, Miami, Florida
APHIS will use $5,000,000 available from FY 2003 appropriation for subsequent construction phases (i.e. parking garage and detector dog kennels) to accommodate all local Agency activities. APHIS moved into the Animal Import Center the first quarter of FY 2005. APHIS is redesigning the plant inspection portion. This APHIS "one-stop" facility houses the Agency's air cargo operations, the plant inspection stations, the canine operations kennels units, and a 100 stall animal import/export center. APHIS commodity and cargo inspection operations work extremely close with the Department of Homeland Security officials in service delivery to importers. The Agricultural Research Service has the lead for managing construction of the remainder of the project.

Our performance goal is to implement the scheduled improvements, construction, security, and maintenance as specified. Data will be collected through contractor reports and on-site verification. The Agency's B&F Master Plan strategy is to modernize existing facilities when required, as well as to properly operate and maintain existing facilities. A total of 26 design/construction projects were awarded in FY 2006. A total 21 repairs were successfully completed in FY 2006.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Summary of Budget and Performance
Statement of Agency Goals and Objectives

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was established by the Secretary of Agriculture on April 2, 1972, under the authority of the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 and other authorities. APHIS is an action-oriented agency that works with other Federal agencies, Congress, States, agricultural interests, and the general public to carry out its mission to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. APHIS strives to assure its customers and stakeholders that it is on guard against the introduction or reemergence 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 also addresses sanitary and phytosanitary trade barriers and certain issues relating to the humane treatment of animals. Finally, APHIS ensures that biotechnology-derived agricultural products are safe for release in the environment.

APHIS has two strategic goals and nine objectives that contribute towards two of the Department's overall strategic goals. As part of its strategic direction, APHIS intends to strengthen key components of its protection system by focusing on the key objectives and strategies:

1. Ensuring the safe research, release, and movement of agricultural biotechnology;
2. Strengthening emergency and homeland security preparedness and response;
3. Resolving trade barrier issues related to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues;
4. Reducing domestic threats through increased offshore threat assessment and risk-reduction activities;
5. Managing issues related to the health of U.S. animal and plant resources and conflicts with wildlife; and
6. Valuing and investing in APHIS employees.

These strategic priorities are also shown below, highlighted by the corresponding Department and Agency objective.

USDA Strategic Goal	Agency Strategic Goal	Agency Objectives	Functional Areas and Programs that Contribute	Key Outcome
USDA Goal 4: Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply	**Agency Goal 1:** Safeguarding the health of animals, plants, and ecosystems.	**Objective 1.1**: Conduct offshore threat assessment and risk reduction activities. **Objective 1.2**: Regulate and monitor to reduce the risk of introduction of invasive species. **Objective 1.3**: Ensure safe research, release, and movement of agricultural biotechnology events, veterinary biologics, and other organisms. **Objective 1.4**: Manage issues related to the health of U.S. animal and plant resources and conflicts with wildlife. **Objective 1.5**: Respond to emergencies-response planning, surveillance, quick detection, containment, and eradication.	• **Pest & Disease Exclusion** – (Except Import/Export-International & Trade Issues Resolution Management) • **Plant & Animal Health Monitoring** • **Pest & Disease Management** • **Animal Care** • **Scientific & Technical Services** • **Management**	Key Outcome 1: To provide a secure agricultural production system and healthy food supply to consumers by defending against diseases, minimizing production losses, maintaining market viability and containing environmental damage.

USDA Strategic Goal	Agency Strategic Goal	Agency Objectives	Functional Areas and Programs that Contribute	Key Outcome
USDA Goal 1: Enhance International Competitiveness of American Agricultural	**Agency Goal 2**: Facilitating safe agricultural trade	**Objective 2.1**: Verify and document the pest and disease status of the U.S. **Objective 2.2**: Certify the health of animals and plants and related products for export and interstate commerce. **Objective 2.3**: Resolve trade barrier issues related to animal and plant health. **Objective 2.4**: Provide expertise and training in animal and plant health.	**Pest & Disease Exclusion** – (Import/Export-International & Trade Issues Resolution Management only)	Key Outcome 2: To assist agricultural producers with gaining access to and retaining foreign markets by resolving sanitary phytosanitary trade barrier issues, facilitating the export of healthy U.S. animals and animal products, and protecting expanded markets abroad.

Selected Past Accomplishments toward Achievement of the Key Outcome: #1

Pest and Disease Exclusion: Safeguard animal and plant resources against introduction of foreign pests and disease, while meeting international trade obligations.

- Cattle Fever Tick: In FY 2006, APHIS completed a comprehensive national strategic plan for the cattle fever tick eradication program. This plan addresses new challenges that APHIS and its cooperators face while continuing to focus on the program's mission of maintaining the United States as free of cattle fever ticks. One of the main objectives of the strategic plan was to conduct a thorough program review. Currently, the cattle tick program is authorized under myriad enabling laws, rules, memoranda, and supplements, including 9 CFR, part 72; VS Memorandum No. 556.1 and Supplements; Chapter 167 of the Texas Agriculture Code; Chapter 41 of the Texas Administrative Code; and about 200 policy statements regarding tick activities. In September 2006, APHIS began a comprehensive review of the program to update and consolidate these policies and procedures. Program standard operating procedures, including any unofficial policies, will be reviewed, updated, and consolidated to ensure that program standards are sufficient to enable implementation of an effective eradication program. These standards will be reviewed in cooperation with the Texas Animal Health Commission and Agricultural Research Service, ensuring that clear standards exist to treat not only cattle but also free-ranging wildlife and exotics on and adjacent to tick-infested premises. Electronic versions of the revised documents will be posted on the APHIS intranet for easy access. APHIS officials completed a site visit associated with the Texas cattle fever tick program review on September 29, 2006. APHIS anticipates the overall program review will be completed in FY 2007, with annual follow-up assessments. During FY 2006, APHIS also carried out a second site visit to the Mexican State of Sonora in recognition of the State as a region free of Boophilus tick.

Plant and Animal Health Monitoring: Minimize agricultural production losses and export market disruption by quickly detecting and responding to new invasive agricultural pests and diseases or other emerging agricultural health situations.

- APHIS is continually working to improve its surveillance system through the development of national surveillance plans that are based on up-to-date models of disease introduction and spread. In FY 2006, APHIS implemented a section of its Classical Swine Fever (CSF) plan as part of the Swine Health Surveillance Plan. APHIS also published a proposed rule soliciting public comment on a new, two-tiered

structure for the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP). Under the proposal, veterinarians are authorized to perform accreditation work on specific categories of animals, and they must meet specific educational requirements every three years to maintain that authorization. The new program will increase the knowledge, skills, and ability requirements for the accredited veterinarian, thereby improving the accuracy and quality of the health certificate-related duties they perform. Also in FY 2006, APHIS released two reports related to BSE surveillance. The first was a summary report of the data collected as part of the enhanced surveillance effort. The second was a draft analysis that estimated the prevalence of BSE in the United States, drawn from data collected during both the enhanced surveillance effort and previous surveillance. This analysis concluded that the prevalence of BSE in the United States is extremely low, with less than one case per million head of adult cattle. In addition, APHIS continued to integrate the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Information Technology system with numerous existing animal health and veterinary diagnostic data networks. This integration will allow a seamless electronic transfer of information that correlates diagnostic samples collected in the field, appropriate diagnostic tests and test results from the NAHLN laboratories, and the daily reporting of relevant information from each submission to the NAHLN repository database. Once integrated, the system will allow NAHLN labs to securely transmit and store data using nationally recognized health information standards that improve data quality and data re-use in systems such as the Department of Homeland Security's National Biosurveillance Integration System.

- Emergency Management Services: In FY 2006, contracts were awarded for the development of tabletop exercises for highly pathogenic avian influenza, and for delivery of up to 60 exercises. The National Veterinary Stockpile has prepared 31 strikepacks for a highly pathogenic avian influenza event and is preparing 25 additional pushpacks which can each be used to treat 10 people for 10 days. An agreement exists, through the Department of Energy, which allows APHIS to use a Lawrence Livermore Labs supercomputer to run computer models for highly pathogenic avian influenza and generate scenarios.
- Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement: During FY 2005 APHIS Investigative and Enforcement Services continued to provide support to all APHIS programs by conducting investigations of Federal laws and regulations under APHIS' jurisdiction through appropriate civil or criminal procedures. In FY 2005, the program handled 3,253 enforcement cases, i.e., formal investigations, which is approximately the same as the year before and about twice the number handled in FY 2002. For FY 2005, the average time needed to resolve a case was 209 days, a significant improvement from the 257 days on average for FY 2004.

Pest and Disease Management: Minimize risks to agricultural production, natural resources, and human health and safety by effectively managing existing agricultural pests and wildlife damage in the U.S.

- Emerging Plant Pests: In FY 2006, the program began transforming the citrus canker eradication program to a citrus health response program. This new program is addressing threats from all significant citrus pests and diseases, while preserving interstate and international citrus markets. In addition, APHIS continued surveys and treatments in New York, New Jersey, and Illinois to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle. Also in FY 2006, the sudden oak death program reduced the number of confirmed sites by 40 percent and the number of infected production nurseries by almost 30 percent from FY 2005.
- Wildlife Services Operations: In FY 2006, APHIS succeeded in moving the raccoon rabies barrier to the east in Virginia and West Virginia through the use of effective and strategic distribution of oral rabies vaccination baits. In partnership with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency trained selected personnel from Canada and Mexico and implemented enhanced wildlife rabies surveillance along our common borders through the use of a direct rapid immunohistochemical test which increases our ability to make sound, real-time Oral Rabies Vaccination decisions regarding where to distribute rabies vaccines to control wildlife rabies. This is the first step in developing and implementing a comprehensive North American rabies management plan. APHIS also successfully contained the unique strain of gray fox rabies through the implementation and distribution of oral rabies vaccines in Texas resulting in 100 percent reduction of confirmed canine rabies strain cases in areas where oral vaccination has been used.

Animal Care: Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the various laws protecting horses.

- Animal Welfare: During FY 2005 the program conducted 16,474 inspections of licensees, registrants, and prospective applicants. This represents a 9-percent increase over FY 2004, and continues the upward trend

in inspections begun in FY 2001 following a sustained period of decline throughout the 1990s. In an important case resulting from the enforcement of the AWA, the University of California at San Francisco paid, in full, a $92,000 fine assessed for violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). APHIS also rescinded the USDA license for C.C. Baird in a case involving numerous violations of the AWA and posted photos of the confiscated pets along with contact information on our Web Site to help owners locate their stolen pets found in the facility.

Scientific & Technical Services: Develop and apply scientific methods that benefit agricultural producers and consumers, protect the health of American animal and plant resources, and sustain agricultural ecosystems.

- Veterinary Diagnostics: A total of 44 states are now involved in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Classical Swine Fever assay was deployed to 12 NAHLN labs in 2005 and to an additional 6 labs in 2006. A total of 43 NAHLN labs are now participating in avian influenza surveillance.
- Plant Methods Development Laboratories: The program provided diagnostic and technical support to a variety of programs, including the emergency response program to address the detection of the potato cyst nematode in Idaho. Additionally, the program has initiated an accelerated research effort to identify cost-effective detection and control tools for the emerald ash borer. Preliminary accomplishments include identifying the chemical signals used by the beetles to locate ash trees and potential mates as well as several promising chemical treatments and biological control agents. Ongoing projects include developing detection methods used at ports of entry to determine if the origin of imported produce is identified correctly and if it has been treated according to APHIS' import regulations using trace element concentrations and making sterile insect programs more cost-effective.
- Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS): APHIS' BRS program continued to evolve in FY 2005 with the creation of two new divisions, the first dedicated to environmental risk analysis, and the second having responsibility for oversight of compliance and field test inspections. The Agency is currently considering changes to its regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms. Related to these proposed changes, APHIS is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, which may include broadening the regulations to reflect the full authorities of the Plant Protection Act of 2000, the adoption of a multi-tiered, risk-based permitting system, the development of an adventitious presence policy, and new and more efficient approaches to the oversight of plants engineered for producing pharmaceutical compounds.

Selected Past Accomplishments toward Achievement of the Key Outcome: #2

Pest and Disease Exclusion: Safeguard animal and plant resources against introduction of foreign pests and disease, while meeting international trade obligations.

- Trade Issues Resolution and Management: In FY 2005 APHIS reopened the Egyptian market for beef and beef products, including livers, allowing $21 million worth of trade to occur. While Taiwan's market for U.S. beef was also reopened (in November 2004), allowing $42 million worth of trade to occur, the export ban was reinstated in June 2005. In addition, APHIS retained markets for poultry to Costa Rica, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, New Caledonia, Qatar, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine, and United Arab Emirates. Also in FY 2005, USDA-APHIS opened markets for chipping potatoes and apples to Japan and for peaches, nectarines, and wheat to Mexico. APHIS worked with 140 countries at the World Organization for Animal Health in 2005 to develop and establish 4 new, important standards affecting trade of animals and animal products.

Efficiency Measures for PART-ed Programs

Pest & Disease Exclusion

Measure	Value
Number of fruit fly traps set in Florida and Puerto Rico	57,363 traps in FY 2005
Dollar cost of 1 million sterile fruit flies produced at the El Pino facility in Guatemala	$108

Plant and Animal Health Monitoring Programs

Measure	Value
Time it takes to investigate and resolve violations in cases settled through APHIS administrative procedures	209 Days
Average cost of an investigation	$2,861

Emergency Pest and Disease Management Programs

Measure	Value
Percent reduction in average Asian Longhorned Beetle treatment cost per tree in New York State (NYS)	$109/tree treated

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

USDA Strategic Objective 4.2: Reduce the number and severity of agicultural pest and disease oubreaks.

USDA Strategic Objective 1.1: Expand and maintain international export opportunities.

Strategic Objective and Funding Matrix
(On basis of current year appropriation)

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate			2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Increase or Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Strategic Objective 4.2							
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Approp)	$27,192,879	303	$27,249,000	303	(701,000)	$26,548,000	303
Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance	119,801,701	885	135,661,000	885	19,161,000	154,822,000	904
Animal & Plant Health Reg.	9,959,654	109	10,295,000	109	2,433,000	12,728,000	127
Animal Welfare	17,303,220	183	17,303,000	183	3,823,000	21,126,000	204
APHIS Info. Technology	4,277,406	0	4,506,000	0	523,000	5,029,000	0
Aquaculture	1,249,380	6	1,249,000	6	25,000	1,274,000	6
Biological Control	9,352,336	105	9,483,000	105	452,000	9,935,000	105
Biosecurity	1,810,502	0	1,952,000	0	1,500,000	3,452,000	0
Biosurveillance	1,751,889	4	1,987,000	4	554,000	2,541,000	4
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	10,395,863	70	10,468,000	70	3,673,000	14,141,000	83
Boll Weevil	38,609,735	10	38,610,000	10	(38,610,000)	0	0
Brucellosis	10,348,470	56	10,348,000	56	(1,256,000)	9,092,000	56
Cattle Ticks	7,550,730	110	7,551,000	110	2,123,000	9,674,000	114
Chronic Wasting Disease	18,222,900	31	18,523,000	31	(6,203,000)	12,320,000	31
Contingency Funds	3,423,362	15	4,099,000	15	64,000	4,163,000	15
Cotton Pests	0	0	0	0	16,098,000	16,098,000	37
Emergency Management Systems	10,736,626	80	13,549,000	80	8,062,000	21,611,000	91
Emerging Plant Pests	92,580,773	238	93,214,000	238	30,789,000	124,003,000	275
Environmental Compliance	2,626,470	20	2,626,000	20	86,000	2,712,000	20
FAD/FMD	8,655,152	27	8,656,000	27	4,650,000	13,306,000	50
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection	54,340,155	373	59,377,000	373	15,357,000	74,734,000	377

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate			2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Increase or Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Golden Nematode	799,920	7	800,000	7	30,000	830,000	7
Grasshopper	5,499,244	34	5,499,000	34	(994,000)	4,505,000	34
Gypsy Moth	4,769,820	35	4,770,000	35	150,000	4,920,000	35
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	0	0	37,205,000	131	19,839,000	57,044,000	131
Horse Protection	489,574	5	492,000	5	4,000	496,000	5
Import/Export	6,750,070	74	6,750,000	74	(772,000)	5,978,000	74
Imported Fire Ant	2,132,460	4	2,132,000	4	18,000	2,150,000	4
Johne's Disease	13,057,110	25	13,057,000	25	(9,791,000)	3,266,000	25
Low Pathogen Avian Influenza	9,625,092	24	10,699,000	24	6,101,000	16,800,000	36
Noxious Weed	1,875,386	2	1,901,000	2	(755,000)	1,146,000	2
Pest Detection	27,042,840	116	27,043,000	116	14,169,000	41,212,000	182
Physical/Operational Security	980,969	0	990,000	0	5,502,000	6,492,000	0
Pink Bollworm	5,168,790	20	5,169,000	20	(5,169,000)	0	0
Plant Methods Development Labs	8,449,650	108	8,450,000	108	3,482,000	11,932,000	116
Plum Pox	2,152,776	5	2,194,000	5	1,020,000	3,214,000	5
Pseudorabies	4,347,090	29	4,347,000	29	(1,876,000)	2,471,000	29
Scrapie	16,429,000	79	18,414,000	79	(1,094,000)	17,320,000	79
Screwworm	24,556,003	36	27,720,000	36	3,001,000	30,721,000	36
Select Agents	3,483,810	18	3,484,000	18	3,182,000	6,666,000	24
Tropical Bont Tick	421,740	2	422,000	2	9,000	431,000	2
Tuberculosis	14,850,990	49	14,851,000	49	1,993,000	16,844,000	64
Veterinary Biologics	15,490,530	180	15,491,000	180	4,376,000	19,867,000	200
Veterinary Diagnostics	22,661,100	267	22,661,000	267	10,283,000	32,944,000	270
Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	1,950,000	11
Wildlife Services Methods	17,092,112	162	17,216,000	162	716,000	17,932,000	168
Wildlife Services Operations	76,824,825	530	77,148,000	530	(198,000)	76,950,000	549
Witchweed	1,500,178	3	1,512,000	3	14,000	1,526,000	3
Total, Strategic Objective 4.2	736,640,281	4,439	807,123,000	4,570	117,793,000	924,916,000	4,893

	2006 Actual		2007 Estimate			2008 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Increase or Decrease	Amount	Staff Years
Strategic Objective 1.1							
Import/Export	5,618,000	73	5,618,000	73	175,000	5,793,000	73
Trade Issues Resolution and Management	12,457,170	52	12,457,000	52	2,384,000	14,841,000	65
Total, Strategic Objective 1.1	18,075,170	125	18,075,000	125	2,559,000	20,634,000	138
Subtotal, Available Appropriations	754,715,452	4,564	825,198,000	4,695	120,352,000	945,550,000	5,031
Unobligated balanace	52,590,938						
Supplemental - Avian Influenza	42,972,451	105	28,527,549	45			
Unobligated balanace	28,527,549	45	0	0			
Total, Available Appropriations	878,806,390	4,714	853,725,549	4,740	120,352,000	945,550,000	5,031

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Summary of Budget and Performance
Key Performance Outcomes and Measures

Goal 1: Safeguarding the health of animals, plants and ecosystems

Key Outcome 1: To provide a secure agricultural production system and healthy food supply to consumers by defending against diseases, minimizing production losses, maintaining market viability and containing environmental damage.

Long-Term Performance Measures: A safe and efficient agricultural and environmental sector provided through:

- **Pest & Disease Exclusion (Except Import/Export-International & TIRM)**
  - Maintain 100% eradication of Cattle Fever Tick outbreaks outside the permanent quarantine zone;
  - Maintain zero significant introductions of foreign animal diseases or pests that spread beyond the original area of introduction;
  - Maintain zero severe outbreaks of exotic fruit flies on the U.S. mainland.
- **Plant & Animal Health Monitoring**
  - Increase percentage of known, significant introductions of plant pests or diseases that are detected before they spread from the area of original colonization and cause significant economic or environmental damage;
  - Decrease the time required to investigate an animal health event to when resources have been deployed to the local incident site and are fully operational;
  - Maintain zero foreign animal diseases introduced into the United States.
- **Pest & Disease Management**
  - Increase the value of damage prevented/mitigated as a result of the ongoing control and eradication programs;
  - Minimize number of emerging plant pest outbreaks that are not contained within the quarantine area;
  - Minimize the number of cases of raccoon rabies occurring west of the current barrier zone;
  - Increase the number of airports where Wildlife Services personnel reduced, suppressed, or prevent wildlife hazards.
- **Animal Care**
  - Increase the percentage of facilities in complete compliance at the most recent inspection.
- **Scientific & Technical Services**
  - Increase number of states that can provide necessary Federal veterinary diagnostic services for animal diseases;
  - Increase the percent of facilities in compliance with permit conditions (number of permits with no violations and number of active permits).
- **Management Initiatives**
  - Decrease number of significant losses of critical assets, infrastructure, research and personnel.

Key Outcome 2: To assist agricultural producers with gaining access to and retaining foreign markets by resolving trade barrier issues, facilitating the export of healthy U.S. animals and animal products, and protecting expanded markets abroad.

Long-Term Performance Measures: Improved trade opportunities for U.S. exporters provided through:

- **Pest & Disease Exclusion (Import/Export & TIRM only)**
  - Increased value of expanded and retained markets, new market access, and trade facilitated.

Key Performance Targets

Performance Measure	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Target	2008 Target
1. Pest and Disease Exclusion						
Cattle Fever Tick: Percentage of cattle fever tick outbreaks occurring outside the quarantine zone eliminated in less than twelve months	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Foreign Animal Disease/Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Number of foreign animal diseases introduced into the United States	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection: Number of outbreaks of exotic fruit flies detected in the U.S.	1	2	2	4	2	2
2. Plant and Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance						
Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance: Number of significant introductions of foreign animal diseases or pests that spread beyond the original area of introduction and cause severe economic or environmental damage, or damage to the health of animals or humans	1	0	0	0	0	0
a. Units. Number of foreign animals disease (FAD) investigations	460	870	1036	576	1,000	700
b. Estimated cost per foreign animal disease investigation	N/A	$12,225	$17,726	$7,670	$14,181	$14,181
Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement: Time required to investigate and resolve violations in cases settled through APHIS' administrative procedures	117 days	257 days	209 days	200 days	220 days	220 days
Pest Detection: Percent of known significant introductions of plants pests or diseases that are detected before they spread from the area of original colonization and cause significant economic or environmental damage	93%	94%	94%	95%	97%	97%

Performance Measure	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Target	2008 Target
3. Pest and Disease Management						
Value of damage prevented/mitigated as a result of the ongoing control and eradication programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	$451 M	$784 M	$899 M
Value of damage prevented/mitigated per program dollar spent for ongoing control and eradication programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	$6.47	$11.95	$13.69
Emerging Plant Pests: EPP outbreaks not controlled within detection area	4	3	2	4	3	3
a. ALB: Square miles regulated	167	183	157	157	157	157
b. Emerald Ash Borer: Detections outside gateway areas	N/A	N/A	6	24	16	15
Wildlife Services Operations: Number of airports where WS personnel reduced, suppressed, or prevented wildlife hazards	441	450	450	480	480	600
a. Units: Number of damaging strike events prevented	441	450	480	480	660	660
b. Dollars: Dollars saved by U.S. Aviation industry by preventing damaging strikes ($147,000/strike)	N/A	$68 million	$68.2 million	$68.2 million	$93.7 million	$93.7 million
Economic losses avoided through protection from beaver damage to property, natural resources and crops	$25 million	$26 million	$27 million	$28 million	$28 million	$28 million
Number of cases of raccoon rabies occurring west of the current barrier zone	Baseline Established	3	0	2	2	2
4. Animal Care						
Animal Welfare: Percentage of facilities in complete compliance at the most recent Animal Welfare inspection*	70%	70%	69%	70%	68%	60%
a. Units: Number of Animal Welfare Act Inspections of Budget Fiscal Year	14,197	14,862	16,474	18,600	17,600	18,200
b. Dollars: Average cost per Animal Welfare Act inspection	$1,147	$1,067	$1,001	$930	$1,088	$1,272

Performance Measure	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Target	2008 Target
5. Scientific and Technical Services						
Biotechnology Regulatory Services: Percent of facilities in compliance with permit conditions (# of permits with no violations/ # of active permits)	N/A	N/A	97.5%	97.5%	97.6%	97.7%
a. Units: BRS Site Inspection	518	545	579	698	715	720
b. Dollars: Cost per BRS Site Inspection	$1,059	$1,107	$1,151	$1,197	$1,197	$1,180
Veterinary Diagnostics: Number of States that can provide necessary Federal animal diagnostic services	26	37	41	45	44	45
6. Management Initiatives						
Physical & Operational Security: Number of zero significant losses of critical assets, infrastructure, research and personnel	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 loss	0 loss	0 loss

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Full Cost by Functional Area
(On basis of appropriated funds)

Pest and Disease Exclusion

PROGRAM ITEMS	DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS		
	FY 2006	**FY 2007**	**FY 2008**
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection	22,298	22,344	21,769
Cattle Ticks	6,192	6,192	7,933
FAD/FMD	7,097	7,098	10,911
Fruit Fly Exclusion And Detection	44,559	48,689	61,282
Screwworm	20,136	22,730	25,191
Tropical Bont Tick	346	346	353
Trade Issues Resolution Management	10,215	10,215	12,170
Import Export	10,142	10,142	9,652
Program Operational Costs	14,754	15,580	18,203
Indirect Costs	11,803	12,464	14,562
Total Pest and Disease Exclusion	147,542	155,800	182,026
FTEs	1,050	1,050	1,094

Performance Measure:	Value of expanded and retained markets, new market access and trade facilitated	+2.4 billion	+2.4 billion	+2.4 billion
Units:	Average number of Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) issues resolved per year	N/A	70	70
Unit Cost:	Average amount of trade permitted per SPS issue resolved	N/A	$35.3 million	$35.3 million
Performance Measure:	Number of new pest or disease outbreaks traced to insufficient monitoring by the pre-departure inspection program	0	0	0
Performance Measure:	Number of foreign animal diseases introduced into the United States.	0	0	0
Performance Measure:	Percentage of cattle fever tick outbreaks occurring outside the quarantine zone eliminated in less than twelve months.	100%	100%	100%
Performance Measure:	Number of severe outbreaks of exotic fruit flies on the U.S. mainland - Domestic and International	4	2	2
Performance Measure:	Fruit fly free area in Mexico and Guatemala	97,792 Km2	98,000 Km2	113,000 Km2
Performance Measure:	Percentage of Mexfly host shipments from Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas that do not require treatment	93%	95%	95%
Units:	Million of medfly pupae produced weekly (in billions)	1,800	3,200	3,200
Unit Cost:	Production cost per 1 million of sterile medfly pupae	$111	$125	$114

Animal and Plant Health Monitoring

PROGRAM ITEMS	DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS		
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance	98,237	111,242	126,954
Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	8,167	8,442	10,437
Biosurveillence	1,437	1,629	2,084
Emergency Management Systems	8,804	11,110	17,721
High Pathogen Avian Influenza	0	30,508	46,776
Pest Detection	22,175	22,175	33,794
Select Agents	2,857	2,857	5,466
Wildlife Disease Monitoring & Surveillance	0	0	1,599
Program Operational Costs	17,278	22,922	29,857
Indirect Costs	13,822	18,338	23,886
Total Animal and Plant Health Monitoring	172,777	229,224	298,574
FTEs	1,212	1,343	1,474

Performance Measure:	Number of significant introductions of foreign animal diseases or pests that spread beyond the original area of introduction and cause severe economic or environmental damage, or damage to the health of animals or humans	0	0	0
Units:	Number of foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations	576	1,000	700
Unit Cost:	Estimated cost per foreign animal disease investigation	$7,620	$14,181	$14,181
Performance Measure:	Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement: Time required to investigate and resolve violations in cases settled through APHIS' administrative procedures.	190 days	220 days	220 days
Performance Measure:	Percent of know significant introductions of plants pests or diseases that are detected before they spread from the area of original colonization and cause significant economic or environmental damage.	95%	96%	96%

Pest and Disease Management

PROGRAM ITEMS	DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS		
	FY 2006	**FY 2007**	**FY 2008**
Aquaculture	1,024	1,024	1,045
Biocontrol	7,669	7,776	8,147
Boll Weevil	31,660	31,660	0
Brucellosis	8,486	8,485	7,455
Chronic Wasting Disease	14,943	15,189	10,102
Contingency	2,807	3,361	3,414
Cotton Pests	0	0	13,200
Emerging Plant Pest	75,916	76,435	101,682
Golden Nematode	656	656	681
Grasshopper	4,509	4,509	3,694
Gypsy Moth	3,911	3,911	4,034
Imported Fire Ant	1,749	1,748	1,763
Invasive Species Competitive Grant	0	0	0
Johne's Disease	10,707	10,707	2,678
Noxious Weeds	1,538	1,559	940
Pink Bollworm	4,238	4,239	0
Plum Pox	1,765	1,799	2,635
Pseudorabies	3,565	3,565	2,026
Scrapie	13,472	15,099	14,202
Tuberculosis	12,178	12,178	13,812
Wildlife Services Operations	62,996	63,261	63,099
Witchweed	1,230	1,240	1,251
Program Operational Costs	33,282	33,802	32,883
Indirect Costs	26,626	27,042	26,306
Total Pest and Disease Management	332,820	338,019	328,827
FTEs	1,307	1,307	1,397

Performance Measure:	Value of damage prevented/mitigated as a result of the ongoing control and eradication programs	$472 M	$784 M	$899 M
Performance Measure:	Value of damage prevented/mitigated per program dollar spent for ongoing control and eradication programs	$6.79	$11.95	$13.69
Performance Measure:	Emerging Plant Pest (EPP) outbreaks not contained within the quarantine area	4	3	3
Performance Measure:	Square miles regulated - Asian long horned beetle (ALB)	157	157	157
Performance Measure:	Sites where tree removal is complete - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)	3 est.	0	0
Performance Measure:	Sudden Oak Death: confirmed positive sites	59	40	24
Units:	Trees treated in New York State (NYS) for Asian longhorned beetle	50,698	65,221	31,654
Unit Cost:	Cost to treat a tree in NYS using a combination of the passive method, standard soil injection, basal soil injection, & pressurized trunk Injection	$120	$114	$119
Performance Measure:	Number of cases of raccoon rabies occurring west of the current barrier zone; Economic losses avoided through protection from beaver damage to property, natural resources and crops	2; $28 M	2; $28 M	2; $28 M
Performance Measure:	Number of airports where Wildlife Services personnel reduced, suppressed, or prevented wildlife hazard	480	600	600
Units:	Number of damaging strike events prevented	480	480	660
Unit Cost:	Dollars saved by U.S. Aviation industry by preventing damaging strikes ($147,000/strike)	$68.2 million	$93.7 million	$93.7 million

Animal Care

PROGRAM ITEMS	DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS		
	FY 2006	**FY 2007**	**FY 2008**
Animal Welfare	14,189	14,188	17,323
Horse Protection	401	403	407
Animal Welfare User Fee Start-Up Costs	0	0	0
Program Operational Costs	1,779	1,780	2,162
Indirect Costs	1,423	1,424	1,730
Total Animal Care	17,793	17,795	21,622
FTEs	188	188	209

Performance Measure:	Percent of facilities in complete compliance at the most recent inspection	70%	68%	60%
Units:	Number of Animal Welfare inspections conducted	18,600	17,600	18,200
Unit Cost:	Cost per animal welfare inspection	$930	$1,088	$1,272

Scientific and Technical Services

PROGRAM ITEMS	DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS		
	FY 2006	**FY 2007**	**FY 2008**
Biosecurity	1,485	1,601	2,831
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	8,525	8,584	11,596
Environmental Compliance	2,154	2,153	2,224
Plant Methods	6,929	6,929	9,784
Veterinary Biologics	12,702	12,703	16,291
Veterinary Diagnostics	18,582	18,582	27,014
Wildlife Services Methods	14,016	14,117	14,704
Program Operational Costs	7,853	7,886	10,298
Indirect Costs	6,282	6,309	8,238
Total Scientific and Technical Services	78,526	78,864	102,980
FTEs	807	807	857

Performance Measure:	Number of States that can provide necessary Federal veterinary diagnostic services for animal diseases	45	44	45
Performance Measure:	Percent of facilities in compliance with permit conditions (# of permits with no violations/ # of active permits)	97.5%	97.6%	97.7%
Units:	Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) site inspection	698	715	720
Unit Cost:	Cost per BRS site inspection	$1,197	$1,197	$1,180

Management Initiatives

PROGRAM ITEMS		DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS		
		FY 2006	**FY 2007**	**FY 2008**
	AITI	3,507	3,695	4,124
	Physical Operational Security	804	812	5,323
	Program Operational Costs	526	550	1,152
	Indirect Costs	421	440	922
	Total Management Initiatives	5,258	5,496	11,521
	FTEs	0	0	0
Performance Measure:	Number of zero significant losses of critical assets, infrastructure, research and personnel	0	0	0
	Total Pest and Disease Exclusion	147,542	155,800	182,026
	Total Animal and Plant Health Monitoring	172,777	229,224	298,574
	Total Pest and Disease Management	332,820	338,019	328,827
	Total Animal Care	17,793	17,795	21,622
	Total Scientific and Technical Services	78,526	78,864	102,980
	Total Management Initiatives	5,258	5,496	11,521
	Total for All Functional Areas	**754,715**	**825,198**	**945,550**