

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

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Vice Chair: Dr. George O. Winegar, Howell, MI

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The committee was called to order at 12:30 pm on Monday, October 25, 2004 with 19 members and 35 visitors present. Vice Chair George Winegar conducted the meeting in Chair Holyoak's absence. He presented the revised mission statement of the Committee with explanation. The Committee voted to adopt the revised version as follows: "The purpose of the Committee on Import-Export is to foster discussion and cooperation with and between members of the private sector of the livestock industries, United States, and state government regulatory officials, and the scientific community, on the problems and opportunities in the import/export of disease-free livestock and germplasm."

Old business included a review of the resolutions that were passed at the 2003 Annual Meeting. Resolution #16 was read and the response by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) noted. Resolution #21 was discussed. Since there had been no formal response received concerning this resolution from the Department of Homeland Security the committee voted to table it until later in the meeting when it could be revisited.

The annual report from USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS), and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) was presented by Drs.

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Arnaldo Vaquer, Senior Staff Officer, USDA-APHIS-VS, National Center for Import and Export and LeAnn Thomas, Assistant Director, Veterinary Medical Regulatory Support, PPQ/Customs and Border Protection. Their report follows:

NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT USDA-APHIS-VS FISCAL YEAR 2004

Arnaldo Vaquer
National Import Center, Riverdale, MD

(I) ANIMAL IMPORT ACTIVITIES:

This past Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 saw a continuation in the reduction of import and export of ruminants to and from the United States because of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) case diagnosed in the state of Washington from a cow imported from Canada, and the cow diagnosed in Canada last May 20, 2003. This is also true of bovine germplasm exports as some countries placed bans on export of bovine semen from the United States.

A major effort has gone into the standardization of protocols for the import of bovine semen and embryos from the European Union (EU), and these protocols are now under consideration by the European Commission. The United States has always imported bovine semen from the EU but each protocol was negotiated with individual countries in the 1990's and contained certification statements concerning BSE that are now considered unnecessary. Both protocols are consistent with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) standards and do not require the exporting country to make any certification statements with respect to BSE.

With respect to the BSE rule for minimal risk countries: APHIS addressed over 3000 comments on issues regarding the import of live animals, animal products as well as comments and concerns about the risk assessment that was developed in support of the rule. There is no date yet for the publication of the final rule.

A staff veterinarian visited the seaport of Manzanillo, Mexico to review the biosecurity inspection and quarantine of imported dairy heifers from Australia.

Several trips have been conducted by National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) staff veterinarians to border ports to strengthen our working relationship and foster our understanding of port operations.

There are many requests for import protocols for a variety of live animals and their germplasm from many countries around the world. Several diseases limit the number of countries where live animals can be imported, such as: foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest (RP), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), classical swine fever (CSF),

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and others. Among the request pending are:

- Argentina-bovine semen
- Brazil-swine semen
- Costa Rica- Feeder Cattle
- Iceland-sheep and goats
- Italy-swine
- Mexico-breeding cattle, camelids, camels, giraffes, antelopes, big horn sheep
- Romania-wild boars
- The Netherlands-equine embryos
- Trinidad & Tobago-sheep semen
- Spain-swine and swine semen

Table 1: Animal Imports

Live Animals

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bovine	2,521,791	2,361,547	2,033,330	1,456,827
Swine	5,072,234	5,910,125	6,815,459	8,639,603
Camelids	584	694	728	29
Cervids	2,610	2,121	146	0
Equine	40,525	38,785	37,493	52,428
Sheep	81,957	107,641	127,945	1,234
Goats	4,113	9,664	13,272	49
Zoo Animals	155	55	51	25

GERMPLASM IMPORTS

Germplasm

Embryos	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bovine	1,221	1,490	1,643	5,533
Caprine	348	64	0	0
Equine	0	0	1	2
Ovine	0	0	40	101

Semen

Bovine	3,315,963	3,004,342	2,958,652	2,671,135
Equine	18,020	20,841	13,751	11,617
Porcine	21,284	17,447	6,853	2,086
Ovine	2,323	349	1,828	2,156
Cervidae	1,336	837	705	92
Caprine	0	33	401	0

POULTRY IMPORTS

Poultry

Type	2001	2002	2003	2004
Day-old chicks				
/ live poultry	14,484,961	17,627,372	18,440,828	17,742,984

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Hatching eggs (doz)	23,191,710	21,470,455	9,832,466	14,993,440
Other live poultry / birds	240,253	77,220	70,359	198,418
Ratites (ostrich, emu, rhea)	0	0	0	0
BOVINE IMPORTS				
Bovine imports by port of entry	2001	2002	2003	2004
Canadian ports	1,255,441	1,575,722	1,001,987	12,177
Mexican ports	1,266,327	784,274	1,031,338	1,444,650
Total	2,521,768	2,359,996	2,034,673	
SWINE IMPORTS				
Swine imports by port of entry	2001	2002	2003	2004
Canadian ports	5,071,608	5,909,291	6,814,037	8,639,403
Denmark	612	669	601	200

Importation of Horses - Activities

USDA-APHIS-VS, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) has validated the competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA) test for piroplasmiasis. The test has been submitted to the OIE Standards Commission for consideration as a prescribed test for international trade and was accepted and adopted by the General Session in May of 2004. The cELISA was incorporated into the 2004 Manual of Diagnostic Test and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals as a prescribed test for international trade.

The Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Working Group met and has provided recommendations for changes to current import testing and treatment requirements for horses imported into the United States from regions affected with CEM. The changes will provide a greater chance of identifying CEM infected horses based on current scientific knowledge and research. These recommendations were presented at the Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses in October 2003. VS has formulated a regulatory work plan which is currently under review.

There have been numerous requests made to USDA by state veterinarians and Area Veterinarians-In-Charge (AVIC's) who approve and monitor CEM quarantine facilities for a more comprehensive and complete list of requirements for these facilities. USDA in conjunction with the CEM Working Group has developed the "CEM Quarantine Facilities Guidelines for States" and a sample of an "Agreement between States and Premise Owners" to provide states with recommendations which they can use at their discretion to approve and monitor these facilities.

Due to the outbreaks of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) in the states of Texas, Colorado and New Mexico, there have been several

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embargoes placed on horses originating in the United States by several countries such as Dominican Republic, Russia, and many others. The National Center for Import and Export have worked with these countries to have these bans either removed or regionalized for horses which originate from the affected state.

The 2004 Breeders Cup Championships, a world-renowned high-stakes international Thoroughbred horse race, was to be held at the Lone Star Park racetrack in Texas. The Breeders Cup Limited organization requested USDA provide guidance on devising surveillance and monitoring plan based on the most current knowledge of VS epidemiology and ecology to establish appropriate prevention strategies for VSV. A plan was presented with the input of the Texas Animal Health Commission to the Breeders Cup Limited organization and Lone Star Park officials for implementation with the assistance of the Texas office of USDA-APHIS-VS.

APHIS held an Animal Health Technical Working Group (AHTWG) teleconference with the European Commission in July 2004 to discuss United States-European Union (EU) equine trade issues. Some of the issues discussed were the EU's dourine/glanders disease status, the standardization of diagnostic laboratory testing procedures and reagents between the United States and laboratories in the EU, and the export of equine viral arteritis (EVA)-positive stallions to the EU. APHIS will also be developing a draft health certificate regarding the requirements for pre-export veterinary inspection of horses exported to the United States, and provide an update on the import requirements for CEM and piroplasmiasis. Follow-up equine AHTWG meetings with the Commission are expected to be held in 2005.

(II) AVIAN/ZOO ANIMALS IMPORT ACTIVITIES:

Poultry and Hatching Eggs

There were 17,742,984 poultry, including day old chicks, and 14,993,440 poultry hatching eggs imported into the United States during fiscal year (FY) 2004.

Commercial Birds

The imports of commercial birds are limited to those that are exempt from the Wild Bird conservation act, serviced by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There were birds released from USDA-operated commercial bird quarantine facilities in (FY) 2004. There were 234,856 commercial birds released from USDA-supervised private bird quarantine facilities.

Pet Bird Program

There were 3,430 pet birds imported into the United States and quarantined at a USDA-operated animal import center during FY 2004. The number of home quarantined birds was 121.

Ratite Importations, no ratites or hatching eggs of ratites were im-

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ported into the United States. The current price of ratites and hatching eggs does not justify the cost of importing such animals.

Smuggled/confiscated birds (387)

NCIE worked with the USFWS and the Arizona State Veterinarian to import critically endangered Sonoran Pronghorns into an Arizona reserve for breeding/re-population purposes.

Outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), H5N1. NCIE joined with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to temporarily ban live birds and unprocessed products from eight countries in Southeast Asia.

An Interim rule was written to restrict birds/unprocessed products from regions reporting HPAI, H5N1

Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed HPAI, H7N3 virus in British Columbia, Canada. USDA regionalized Canada temporarily prohibiting live birds and unprocessed products from British Columbia.

NCIE is working on an updated brochure for distribution - **“Importing a Pet Bird-Special rules for Bringing Pet birds of Non-U.S. Origin Into the United States.”**

USDA Legislative and Public Affairs developed **“Biosecurity Is for the Birds” - Practice Good Biosecurity and Keep Birds Healthy!** Included are Animal Disease Alert handouts about exotic Newcastle disease (END) and avian influenza (AI). The distribution was to practicing veterinarians to target noncommercial poultry.

The Bioterrorism Act required the FDA to receive prior notice of imported food shipments including livestock. Anyone that imports or transits cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, chickens etc., must comply with the new FDA regulations. NCIE complied with the FDA to add links for this new requirement to our import requirements websites for poultry, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses.

The Miami Animal Import Center moved into their new facility.

NCIE began work plan to include all HPAI as defined to the Code of Federal Regulations with requirements similar to END.

NCIE is working with USDA-APHIS-Animal Care to rewrite the zoological ruminant Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) Memo and the current MOU.

(III) ANIMAL EXPORT ACTIVITIES:

Short Narrative, Successes and pending issues-Americas:

APHIS has been involved in recurring bilateral or multilateral animal health discussions with a number of countries, either as part of Sanitary and Phytosanitary negotiations for free trade agreements (Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru), established SPS/animal health committees (Canada, Mexico and most recently Chile), as well as Con-

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sultative Committees on Agriculture (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico). APHIS participates in a similar animal health committee with Uruguay. Additionally in a number of countries, APHIS officers' in-country meet routinely with animal health counterparts.

Significant effort has been expended towards regaining access for BSE low risk commodities including bovine semen, bovine embryos, tallow and pet foods, as well as live ruminants. A few countries have also placed restrictions on other animals, including cats (Colombia and Ecuador). On the positive, a number of countries have now opened to the United States for low risk bovine products. Significant effort has been expended towards country action to lift restrictions on pet food which does not contain U.S.-source ruminant materials, as well as for dairy products, tallow, blood products and biologicals. Several countries are currently accepting live ruminants, namely Canada (slaughter cattle and bob calves), Cuba (breeding cattle and small ruminants), Guyana (small ruminants), Honduras (ruminants under import permit), Mexico (slaughter sheep and slaughter goats), Suriname (cattle, sheep and goats), and Trinidad and Tobago (small ruminants).

Regarding poultry diseases, many Americas countries maintain these restrictions due to non reportable low pathogenic AI findings as well as HPAI. APHIS has provided extensive information to these countries, attempting to regain access for raw products and poultry and hatching eggs. These countries include Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and the Andean Pact countries of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Mexico and the Andean Pact countries require one and two years since the date of the last infection to consider lifting restrictions.

Argentina, Brazil, and Honduras have not recognized the United States as free of END, in spite of receipt of extensive information.

The NCIE continues in efforts to gain access related to restrictions imposed due to anaplasmosis (Canada), bluetongue (Canada, Chile, and Cuba), equine viral arteritis (Colombia), vesicular stomatitis (Canada and Dominican Republic) as well as restrictive statements pertaining to West Nile virus. Another initiative is directed towards harmonizing requirements for brucellosis, tuberculosis and pseudorabies with Canada.

Free trade negotiations are ongoing.

Argentina

USDA's consultative committee on agriculture, with animal health bilaterals. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie, AI and END.

Bovine semen protocol negotiated. Old requirements were revoked when the United States reported BSE. Argentina insists in BSE statements.

Poultry diseases. Argentina refuses to consider the United States as free of AI or Newcastle disease

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Argentine poultry meat lamb and beef: USDA is working on requests from Argentina. Publishing appropriate rule making is forthcoming for poultry meat and lamb. A new site visit for beef still needs to occur before we can consider rulemaking.

Bolivia

Bolivia is a part of the Andean Community (AC) and member of the AC technical committee on animal health. Restrictions on the United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

Brazil

USDA's consultative committee on agriculture, with animal health bilaterals. Restrictions on the United States for BSE, scrapie and AI. Brazil is evaluating information provided by APHIS in order to consider the United States as free of AI or Newcastle disease, as well as for classical swine fever and exports of swine to Brazil. We do have a new approved health certificate for swine; however, they still require either that swine are non-tittered for 9 Leptospire or treated twice with dihydrostreptomycin.

APHIS is evaluating the status of Brazil with respect to their request to regionalize a region for FMD.

Canada

A North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) member country. Free trade agreement has been negotiated and SPS committee exists. Restrictions on the United States for BSE, bluetongue and anaplasmosis. Safe products for BSE are allowed.

In May 2003 APHIS added Canada to the list of countries affected with BSE. APHIS is working towards rulemaking which would allow the importation of low risk ruminant products and cattle and sheep and goats for fattening and slaughter before 30 and 12 months of age.

Cayman Islands

Recently lifted restrictions on the United States for BSE

Chile

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee exists. APHIS recognized Chile as free of classical swine fever, following review of their application. July 2004 Restrictions on United States for BSE and bluetongue.

Colombia

Free trade negotiations are ongoing. Part of the AC and member of the AC technical committee on animal health. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI. APHIS is not actively pursuing a request by the Government of Colombia to regionalize portions of the country for FMD, due principally to inability to conduct an appropriate site visit because of security issues. Colombia refuses to consider our request to be considered as free of HPAI. They restrict poultry to a few approved States for purposes of importing genetics. Ban recently was narrowed to California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Michi-

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gan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Costa Rica

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee is being established. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

Cuba

Restrictions on United States for bluetongue and AI. Recently lifted BSE restrictions. Animal products: Pet food and dairy certificates were approved. Table eggs and poultry meat A variety of States are restricted for AI, Canada's HPAI (States bordering British Columbia), LPAI H7 Northeast United States, as well as Texas. Specific restricted states are California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Washington. Beef and pork: U.S. shipments of beef and pork are approved from FSIS plants; however, BSE certification language is pending.

Live ruminants and genetic material: VS hosted a mission from Cuba. We are currently reworking protocols for live ruminants and anticipate a site visit to approve farms and select cattle later this year. We have also new protocols for bovine semen and have a proposal on the table for bovine embryos.

Dominican Republic

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee is being established. Restrictions on United States for BSE.

Ecuador

Free trade negotiations are ongoing. Part of the AC and member of the AC technical committee on animal health. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

El Salvador

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee is being established. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

Grenada

Recently lifted restrictions on the United States for AI. Recently lifted restrictions on the United States for BSE.

Guatemala

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee is being established. Restrictions on United States for BSE and scrapie. Recently lifted restrictions on the United States for AI.

Guyana

Recently lifted BSE restrictions

Honduras

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee is being established. Restrictions on United States for scrapie and AI. Recently lifted BSE restrictions. APHIS is evaluating a request from

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the Government of Honduras to consider the country as free of END.

Jamaica

Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

Mexico

A NAFTA country. Free trade agreement has been negotiated and SPS committee exists. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI. Mexico has considered information submitted related to END and released all restrictions due to END. A variety of States are still restricted for AI, including highly pathogenic H5 and low pathogenic H7 AI (Texas), low pathogenic H6 AI California, H2 (Pennsylvania), as well as H7 (Connecticut).

APHIS recognized Mexico's Yucatan states as free of END. APHIS recognized Mexico's Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa as free of classical swine fever. August 2003 banned Holstein cross steers and Holstein cross spayed heifers from Mexico. March 2004 Mexico is open to live slaughter sheep and goat exports.

Nicaragua

Free trade agreement has been negotiated and an SPS committee is being established. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI (just Texas).

Panama

Free trade negotiations are ongoing. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI. Panama refuses to consider our request to be considered as free of highly pathogenic AI. They restrict poultry to a few approved states for purposes of importing genetics.

APHIS is evaluating a request from the Government of Panama to consider the country as free of END.

Peru

Free trade negotiations are ongoing. Part of the AC and member of the AC technical committee on animal health. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI (CA, CT, DE, MD, NJ, PA, RI, TX). Peru refuses to consider our request to be considered as free of HPAI. They restrict poultry to a few approved states for purposes of importing genetics.

APHIS is reviewing information submitted by the government of Peru for regions to be considered as low risk or free of FMD (llama importations) and END (ostrich meat).

Suriname

Recently lifted BSE restrictions.

Trinidad and Tobago

Recently lifted BSE restrictions. Recently lifted AI restrictions.

Uruguay

An SPS committee under JCTI (like a Free trade agreement) meets routinely. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

Venezuela

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Part of the AC and member of the AC technical committee on animal health. Restrictions on United States for BSE, scrapie and AI.

The following countries allow the importation of U.S. ruminant livestock:

Canada: Slaughter cattle, accepted under a State health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian, under seal to slaughter only. Slaughter animals are managed as normal slaughter subject to same SRM removal and BSE surveillance procedures as is the case for Canadian cattle.

Cuba: Breeding cattle and small ruminants; requires an in situ risk assessment conducted by inspection team.

Guyana: Small ruminants (Based on import permit only, no protocol developed); allows the importation from the United States of sheep and goats once an import permit is issued with the health regulations.

Honduras: Allows ruminants under import permit; lifted bans for all non risk ruminant-origin materials, including live ruminants under the age of 30 months. Decree No.485-04 dated May 26, 2004, lifts the temporary prohibition for the importation from U.S. of animals, products, and sub-products of ruminant species, included in Decree No. 968-2003 of December 2003. Conditions as per conditions of import permit, apparently as previous to December 2003.

Mexico: Slaughter sheep and slaughter goats; requires a certification statement: "In the country of origin, there are animal health regulations that forbid the feeding of ruminant origin proteins to ruminant animals except milk and milk products / En el país de origen existe reglamentación zoonosanitaria vigente que prohíbe alimentar a los rumiantes con proteínas de origen rumiante, excepto leche y proteínas de leche."

Due to scrapie concerns, Mexico imposes the restriction that the animals are accompanied by Federal official to slaughter plant.

Suriname: Cattle, sheep and goats (no protocol available for sheep and goats); "cattle [and small ruminants] are allowed into Suriname, if with regards to BSE, the shipment is accompanied by an official USDA declaration, certifying that the State(s) and farm(s) of origin have been free; i.e., no case of BSE has been diagnosed in either State or farm."

Trinidad and Tobago: Small ruminants; "the exportation of live small ruminants may be resumed under the following conditions:

- a. There must be certification that the ban on the feeding of ruminant material to ruminants has been complied with on the premises of origin.
- b. That there have been no cases of BSE on the premises of origin of the animals or among animals that have originated from the same premises."

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Successes and Pending Issues- European Union, Africa/New Zealand and Australia

- Successful trade discussions were held with Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Estonia and the Czech Republic. A meeting with Russia was not immediately gratifying, but soon after poultry restrictions were lifted. FAS Russia has the impression of less resistance than formerly on the part of the Ministry.
- Completed memorandum for handling of stray ruminants from Canada and Mexico
- Resolved contentious export situation involving horses to South Africa.
- A successful ongoing bovine embryo import project has been initiated with Mexico
- Despite the outbreak of VSV, equine exports to the EU were continued with only a short disruption of trade
- VSV has caused relatively few export problems with Europe, Australia, New Zealand and sub-Saharan Africa

Work in progress

- Revision of Spayed heifer requirements – collaboration with Western Region
- Technical trade talks with the European Union regarding:
 - o Bovine semen
 - o Bovine embryos
 - o Equine certifications
- European Union has annexed 10 new countries – we are working to harmonize health certificates, and to obtain & post bilingual certificates where needed
- Electronic permits and certification is going forward; much interest in computer-generated export certificates
- Removal of BSE statements from export certificates
 - o Opening or maintaining markets for bovine semen and embryos in the wake of BSE concerns

Import project to obtain gerenuk semen from Kenya

- o Exhaustive protocol development, and testing requirements
- o On-site USDA supervision of collections, testing and control of semen and samples
- o Collaborative efforts
 - with Zoo and wildlife veterinarians in the private sector with regulatory veterinarians
 - USDA-APHIS-VS, USDA-APHIS-International Services and USDA, APHIS, VS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

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- Regulatory veterinarians in USDA and Kenya
- Developing SOP standards for disaster/emergency situations that might disrupt work flow of NCIE

Short Narrative, Successes and pending issues - Asia/Middle East:

The detection of a single case of BSE in an imported cow in the State of Washington in December 2003 continues to negatively impact U.S. ruminant exports. To our knowledge, no country in the region is open to U.S. cattle. With respect to U.S. small ruminants, details are sketchy; one or more countries may be open but overall, export possibilities would appear to still be significantly reduced. Through preexisting or newly introduced import health protocols or by special edict, a number of countries had BSE-related import bans on U.S. bovine semen and/or embryos, this despite international standards declaring that such bans, or any BSE-related import restrictions, are inappropriate for these commodities. To date, we've had success in getting most of the bans lifted, although a number of countries still are trying to include some restrictions in their protocols.

United States exports of day-old chicks and hatching eggs have been compromised this year by reports of detections of high-path and even low-path AI virus here. Negative foreign import actions have varied greatly by country, particularly with respect to the reports pertaining to low-path H5 AI virus and low-path H7 AI virus. We have aggressively countered the negative actions, with reasonable success.

Overall, this year's outbreak of vesicular stomatitis (VS) seems to have had only a moderate negative impact on exports to countries of the region. Our conservative approach in past foreign import health protocol negotiations (we did not agree to a requirement for country-freedom certification for the disease) has significantly minimized the damage. And we hope the OIE's recent decision to no longer separate the infectious diseases covered in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code into a List A group (diseases perceived as most severe; VS was included in this group) and a List B group will mitigate future foreign concerns over the disease.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Japan

- Improved import health protocol (IHP) negotiated for U.S. bovine embryos.
- New IHP negotiated for honey bees from Hawaii.

Philippines

- Improved IHP negotiated for U.S. swine.

Turkey

- New IHP negotiated for U.S. female breeding cattle. Note: Almost simultaneous with this success was a downgrading by the European Food Safety Authority of the United States's Geo-

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graphical BSE Risk (GBR) from GBR Level II to GBR Level III. This action caused Turkish authorities to maintain an import ban on all U.S. cattle despite the agreement on the specified IHP.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

China

- Improved IHP's for U.S. bovine semen, bovine embryos, cattle, and swine under negotiation.
- New IHP's for U.S. exotic ruminants and rabbits under negotiation.

India

- New IHP's for bovine semen and rabbits under negotiation.

Israel

- New IHP's for breeding cattle and feeder cattle under negotiation.

Japan

- Attempting to dialogue on reopening the market for U.S. cattle.
- Revised IHP for bovine semen under negotiation.

Tawain

- Improved TGE testing requirement (in IHP for U.S. swine) under negotiation.

Tunisia

- New IHP's for U.S. breeding cattle and feeder cattle under negotiation.

Table 2: Animal Exports

BY SPECIES

Live Animals

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bovine	174,767	130,549	82,426	24,171
Equine	107,041	73,015	65,128	58,445
Ovine	377,520	479,896	216,829	85,430
Caprine	43,217	34,503	28,282	5,824
Porcine	26,336	271,125	188,245	349,310
Cervids	2,207	946	186	259
Camelids	41	103	116	106
Zoo animals	475	396	204	700
Bison	2,498	592	29	84

POULTRY EXPORTS

Poultry

Type	2001	2002	2003	2004
Day-old chicks /				
live poultry	46,190,951	41,611,945	36,821,151	38,677,805
Hatching eggs				
(dozen)	80,230,234	80,354,301	86,886,458	65,452,462

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Other live poultry / birds	51,720,190	44,624,523	48,040,190	43,364,010
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GERMPLASM EXPORTS

Germplasm

Embryos	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bovine	15,563	12,005	13,562	12,063
Ovine	40	30	0	0
Porcine	100	100	0	1,093
Equine	10	2	54	43
Cervid	0	0	0	0
Caprine	0	0	364	0

Semen

Bovine	11,432,972	10,656,353	10,230,501	10,049,013
Equine	13,570	15,873	19,266	19,860
Porcine	12,642	21,994	15,409	23,734
Caprine	350	951	2,002	0
Ovine	450	1,368	400	2,171
Cervid	2,141	1,209	497	369

AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture

Type	2001	2002	2003	2004
Live fish, incl. mollusks & crustaceans	10,487,542	253,313,503	138,555,808	30,502,994
Eggs	128,732,044	109,795,049	132,185,008	154,718,512

Aquaculture Update

Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA)

ISA is a foreign animal disease and an OIE notifiable disease of Atlantic salmon that was first detected in Cobscook Bay, Maine in the spring of 2001. The disease had been present in salmon net-pen farming operations in neighboring New Brunswick, Canada since 1996. In December of 2001, the Secretary of Agriculture declared an emergency due to ISA and provided assistance for depopulation, cleaning and disinfection as well as indemnification. Of the 17 net-pen sites in Cobscook Bay, 8 depopulated voluntarily prior to the emergency declaration and 9 depopulated under the USDA program in early 2002.

Following depopulation of all net-pen sites in the bay, all sites and equipment were cleaned and disinfected and were fallowed for more than 100 days. A mandatory surveillance program, part of the ISA program, was instituted and is ongoing.

Following restocking in April of 2002, all U.S. net-pen sites remained negative for ISA until June of 2003 when two cages at two different net-pen sites tested positive. The infection pressure from neighboring

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Canada was high, as New Brunswick had 18 positive sites (not just cages) in 2003, all in close proximity to net-pen sites in Maine. Additionally, the extreme tides and strong currents bring water from Canada down into Maine.

The USDA program success has led to improved disease control measures in the New Brunswick, Canada ISA program as well as harmonization between the United States and Canadian programs. U.S. and Canadian regulators meet biannually to discuss respective ISA programs, and local ISA program managers in Maine and New Brunswick meet frequently.

Suspect cages continue to be identified, and to date, multiple cages at four U.S. net-pen sites have been confirmed positive in 2004, all post-harvest.

An import protocol has been developed and will be published through the rulemaking process.

Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC)

Spring Viremia of Carp is a Foreign Animal Disease and an OIE notifiable disease primarily affecting cyprinids such as carp and koi carp. The disease was first identified in the United States in a farm consisting of approximately 214 ponds in North Carolina and Virginia in the spring of 2002. In March of 2003, the Secretary of Agriculture declared an emergency due to SVC allowing APHIS to assist with depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, and also indemnification.

Depopulation, cleaning and disinfection of the infected premises in North Carolina and Virginia was completed in September of 2003. The facility restocked with SVC-free certified animals in the winter of 2004. APHIS conducted surveillance testing of the animals in the spring of 2004 and is preparing for a fall test to confirm that SVC eradication efforts are successful.

National surveillance for SVC was implemented in the spring of 2003. Surveillance includes trace in and trace outs of facilities, other importers and exporters that belong to a voluntary SVC testing program. Eighty premises in 21 states have been tested as part of our SVC surveillance program, all with negative results.

In June of 2004, a backyard koi hobbyist pond in Washington State tested positive for SVC. The site has been depopulated, cleaned and disinfected and traces conducted. In July of 2004, a commercial farm in Missouri also tested positive for SVC. Preliminary traces link to Illinois and Minnesota. The Missouri facility finished depopulation on August 31st. Cleaning and disinfection is underway. The Illinois facility voluntarily cleaned and disinfected after all remaining fish were sent to NVSL (results were negative although water temperatures were not conducive for detecting SVCV). The Minnesota facility remains under quarantine.

An SVC import protocol has been developed and will be published

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following the rulemaking process.

White Spot (WSSV)

White spot is an OIE notifiable disease of shrimp. The disease has been detected in shrimp growing operations in the Gulf of Mexico area. On April 14, 2002, the disease was detected for the first time in a commercial shrimp farm on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. The farm operates on well water and uses SPF shrimp and has strict biosecurity measures in place. The source of the virus is unknown. The facility has been depopulated, cleaned and disinfected with APHIS assistance. Hawaii will seek to obtain WSSV-free status following OIE criteria.

EU Export Issues

EU Directive 2003/858/EC lays down the conditions for export of fish, their eggs and gametes for farming or human consumption into the European Union. Many of the requirements in the directive are impossible to meet such as having the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection signed by an APHIS official on day of shipment. APHIS negotiated with the EU to accept our "system" of accredited veterinarians and APHIS approved labs to certify these animals and products, allowing for some leeway in interpreting the health certification requirements outlined in the directive.

EU Directive 2003/804/EC lays down the conditions for export of mollusks, their eggs and gametes for farming or human consumption into the European Union. Similar issues exist with this directive as the fish directive. Additionally, because APHIS certifies on a farm basis and not a regional or area basis, the EU has agreed only to accept our product until June 1, 2005 and pending the outcome of an animal health audit. The ability to continue trade depends on the outcome of this audit that will include the EU looking for competent authority registration and oversight of farms approved to ship to the EU and also they will be scrutinizing water source issues (i.e. farms are free of OIE notifiable diseases, but not necessarily the wild populations sharing the same water source with farm-raised animals). APHIS is working with NOAA and FWS to prepare for the audit. FDA will also be involved from the public safety standpoint.

National Aquatic Animal Health Plan

The Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA) is a Federal inter-agency group authorized by the National Aquaculture Act and serves to coordinate aquaculture efforts in the various agencies. The JSA has many task forces. The National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force (NAAHTF) has been charged to develop a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan. Dr. John Clifford is chair of the NAAHTF. The rationale for developing such a plan is to protect our wild and cultured resources, support efficient aquaculture, achieve efficient and predictable commerce, and meet our national and international trade obligations.

The NAAHTF is responsible for drafting chapters of the plan. Input

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is received from stakeholders through working group meetings and comments on draft chapters. To date, the first three draft chapters of the plan have been drafted and are being circulated to the JSA and stakeholders. Additional draft chapters are scheduled to be completed this year and will be included on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Web site (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/naah_plan.html). Our goal is to complete the plan by June 2006. The task force is on target to complete the plan by this date

(IV) REGIONALIZATION:

Americas

The following countries* of the Americas are being evaluated for the status of the diseases or acceptability to export designated commodities:

- **Foot-and-Mouth Disease:** Argentina, Brazil, and Peru
- **Exotic Newcastle Disease:** Argentina, Honduras, Mexico (States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo Leon, and the Lagunera Region), Mexico (State of Nayarit), Panama, and Peru
- **Classical Swine Fever:** Mexico (States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, Sonora, and Yucatan) and Mexico (State of Nayarit)
- **Brucellosis:** Mexico (State of Sonora)
- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Review efforts to regionalize certain Mexican States for TB are ongoing

*In some cases, only a certain region or regions are being evaluated for the indicated disease

World

The following countries* are being evaluated for the status of the diseases or acceptability to export designated commodities:

- **Foot-and-Mouth Disease:** Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Lithuania, Namibia, Peru, Slovakia, and South Africa
- **Exotic Newcastle Disease:** Argentina, Denmark, Honduras, Mexico (States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo Leon, and the Lagunera Region), Mexico (State of Nayarit), Panama, and Peru
- **Classical Swine Fever:** Several regions in the EU including Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia; Mexico (States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, Sonora, and Yucatan); and Mexico (State of Nayarit)
- **Swine Vesicular Disease:** Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia
- **African Horse Sickness:** Saudi Arabia
- **Brucellosis:** Mexico (State of Sonora)

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- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Review efforts to regionalize the certain Mexican States for TB are ongoing
- **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy:** Canada

*In some cases, only a certain region or regions are being evaluated for the indicated disease

(V) ANIMAL PRODUCTS ACTIVITIES:

Export Division

The export division of the animal products staff has had an extremely active year. Negotiations have taken place with many countries to begin or facilitate trade in many different types of animal products. In some cases these negotiations were conducted jointly with FSIS or the USDA-Agriculture Marketing Service-Dairy Division. Many of these discussions involved efforts to retain markets after the BSE case was confirmed in Washington State, and HPAI was confirmed in Texas.

Some of the activities are as follows:

- Pet food to Australia
- Animal feed ingredients to Peru
- Table eggs to Mexico
- Poultry products to many countries expressing concern about exotic Newcastle disease in the United States
- Dairy products to Argentina
- Beef pancreas to Argentina
- Poultry product to Azerbaijan
- Pet food to Barbados
- Gelatin to China
- Poultry products and animal by products to the European Union
- Pet food to Turkey
- Pet food to Israel
- Pet food to Russia
- Technical gelatin to Russia
- Hides to South Africa
- Hides to Thailand
- Animal feed ingredients to Taiwan
- Poultry and other animal products to Sri Lanka
- Table eggs to Singapore
- Dairy to India
- Animal products including dairy to Ukraine
- Dairy products to Cuba
- Pet food to Cuba
- Pet food to Malaysia
- Pet food to Mexico
- Ruminant serum to Mexico
- Dairy products to Bolivia
- Dairy products to Chile
- Meat products to Guatemala
- Fetal bovine serum to Korea
- Deer and elk products to Korea
- Animal feed ingredients to Japan
- Poultry to New Caledonia
- Pet food to the Philippines
- Poultry to Taiwan
- Technical blood products to the United Kingdom
- Hides to Vietnam
- Animal feed ingredients to Australia
- Animal feed ingredients to Brazil
- Ruminant products to Japan – BSE issue
- Inedible egg products to Argentina
- Fetal bovine serum and calf serum to Argentina
- Dairy products to Barbados
- Dairy products to Bulgaria
- Hides to Hong Kong
- Dairy products to Turkey
- Tallow, dairy and animal feeds to Russia
- Hides, furs, feathers to Russia
- Pet food to South Africa
- Poultry products to Thailand
- Bovine serum to Taiwan
- Pet food to Taiwan
- Pet Food to India
- Beef to Romania
- Animal feed ingredients to Malaysia
- Rendered products to Mexico
- Table eggs to Mexico
- Pet food to Chile
- Meat-and-bone meal to China
- Dairy products to Indonesia
- Tallow to Korea
- Animal feed ingredients to Korea
- Poultry and eggs to Japan
- Dairy products to Peru
- Pet food to Taiwan
- Pet food to Trinidad and Tobago
- Dairy products to Uruguay

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Import Division

The import animals' products staff continues to protect the U.S. livestock and poultry population from Foreign Animal Diseases by implementing mitigations in response to issues related to the animal disease status of our trading partners.

Due to Canada's intensive efforts to control and containment HPAI in British Columbia, and their ability to meet the OIE standards for disease free status, VS recently removed the import restrictions and prohibitions on bird and poultry from British Columbia, Canada.

As a result of the BSE case being diagnosed in Canada, USDA implemented new disease health certification mitigations for low risk commodities in or for them to continue to enter the United States. VS issued hundreds of import permit for eligible products including ruminant meat and meat products, hunter harvested meat and trophies, pet food and research samples. In addition, as a result of the R-Calf lawsuit against the USDA, numerous import permits that contained disease mitigation requirements for the import of Canadian ruminant meat and meat products were cancelled. These permits provided for products to enter which were determined to be for products outside the scope of Secretary Veneman's August 8, 2003 announcement. This announcement listed those commodities that were considered low-risk and could be imported without risk. USDA maintains the lawsuit and subsequent permit cancellations were not an animal health issue but rather a process issue.

For FY 2004 1,839 new permit applications were received, and 1,633 renewal or amended applications were received for products from Canada.

(VI) VETERINARY REGULATORY SUPPORT, PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

During Fiscal Year 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was responsible for conducting all inspections of passenger declarations; inspecting international passengers, luggage, cargo, mail and monitoring all international garbage compliance agreements for USDA. CBP is tasked with regulating all imported commodities including animal products, by-products, international garbage and related risk materials according to rules, regulations and policies set down by USDA. Veterinary Regulatory Support (VRS) has had a major role as a liaison between USDA Veterinary Services, National Center for Import /Export and CBP Agriculture Inspection, Policies and Programs (AIPP). VRS is responsible for providing alerts to the U.S. ports of arrival via CBP-AIPP, informing them of changes in animal disease status world wide and appropriate mitigation procedures to be followed by CBP when regulating imported commodities from countries affected with a foreign animal disease of

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concern to U.S. Agriculture. VRS, Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Veterinary Medical Officers in the field work tirelessly to provide technical and scientific expertise and guidance for CBP Agriculture Specialists and other CBP Officers in the regulation of imported animal products, animal by-products, related materials and international garbage.

Summary of Activities: October 2003- Sept 2004

100,895	Foreign Vessels Arrived
35,918	Foreign Vessels Boarded
5,217	Foreign Vessels Boarded for Garbage Violations
12,330,122 kg	Weight of garbage removed from foreign vessels
522,921	Aircraft arrived from foreign locations
34,960,717 kg	Weight of garbage removed from aircraft arrivals

Agriculture products confiscated at the Border

Site	Number of Lots	Weight (kg)
Maritime	2,314	42,219,367
Aircraft	228,669	476,198
Land Border	150,215	2,517,580
Mail	25,538	40,947

Miscellaneous: Footwear Cleaned and Disinfected 120,196

Dr. Michael David, Director of International Sanitary Standards, NCIE, USDA-APHIS-VS, provided a report on the new OIE disease reporting system. The following is his report:

Disease notification to the OIE was previously based on Lists A and B. There is now a mandate to unify the current List A and List B into a single list and establish the criteria to help determine whether a disease is either included or excluded from the list and to define a new frequency of disease reporting. The new disease reporting system will allow diseases on the list to “gravitate” to their true relative importance and promote transparency and avoid penalizing countries that do notify the OIE of their disease outbreaks. The new criteria to list diseases are based on international spread, emerging potential, zoonotic potential and significant spread in naïve populations. There are two degrees of disease reporting frequency; immediate and routine. Immediate reporting will take place –

- when it is the first occurrence of a listed disease and/or infection in a country or zone/compartiment;
- when there is re-occurrence of a listed disease and/or infection in a country or zone/compartiment following a report that declared the outbreak as ended;
- with the first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogen of an OIE listed disease in a country or zone/compartiment;
- when there is a sudden and unexpected increase in the distri-

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bution, incidence, morbidity or mortality of a listed disease prevalent within a country or zone/compartment;

- with an emerging disease with significant morbidity or mortality, or zoonotic potential;
- when there is evidence of change in the epidemiology of a listed disease (including host range, pathogenicity, strain) in particular if there is a zoonotic impact.

Routine reporting will take place on a biannual basis. Beginning January, 2005, emergency reports are to be made immediately within a 24 h period and routine reports on all diseases are to occur every six months, with a yearly report containing any additional information will also be submitted.

Dr. Bob Bokma, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Regionalization Coordinator for Regionalization, USDA-APHIS-VS, Regional Coordinator for the Americas, USDA-APHIS-VS NCIE, reported his perspective on regionalization for movement of animals and products. The following is his report:

Regionalization applies to both our requests to other countries as well as official requests from other countries to the United States and is mandated by the SPS Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The purpose is to allow international trade to occur following either the recognition as free, or achieving recognition as low risk for, a specific animal disease, which impedes trade of specific animals or animal products.

In the United States, this process requires submission of an official request supplemented with information sufficient to allow the importing country to conduct appropriate risk assessment and promulgate any necessary changes.

With regard to domestic regionalization requests presented by the United States to importing countries in the Americas, significant effort has been expended towards regaining access for BSE low risk commodities including bovine semen, bovine embryos, tallow and pet foods, as well as live ruminants. A few countries have also placed restrictions on other animals, including cats (Colombia and Ecuador). A number of these countries have now opened for low risk bovine products. Significant effort has been expended towards for action by countries to lift restrictions on pet food, which does not contain U.S.-source ruminant materials, as well as for dairy products, tallow, blood products and veterinary biologics. Several countries are currently accepting live ruminants, namely Canada (slaughter cattle and bob calves), Cuba (breeding cattle and small ruminants), Guyana (small ruminants), Honduras (ruminants under import permit), Mexico (slaughter sheep and slaughter goats, slaughter deer, and breeding wild sheep), Suriname (cattle, sheep and goats), and Trinidad and Tobago (small ruminants).

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Regarding poultry diseases, many Americas countries maintain these restrictions due to non-reportable low pathogenic AI virus findings as well as HPAI. APHIS has provided extensive information to these countries, attempting to regain access for raw products and poultry and hatching eggs. These countries include Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and the Andean Pact countries of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Mexico and the Andean Pact countries require one and two years since the date of the last infection to consider lifting restrictions.

The following countries worldwide are being evaluated by the United States for the status of the diseases or acceptability to export designated commodities:

- African Horse Sickness: Saudi Arabia
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Canada
- Classical Swine Fever: Several regions in the EU including Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia; Mexico (States of Compeche, Quintana Roo, Sonora, and Yucatan); and Mexico (State of Nayarit)
- Brucellosis: Mexico (State of Sonora)
- Exotic Newcastle Disease: Argentina, Denmark, Honduras, Mexico (States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo Leon, and the Lagunera Region), Mexico (State of Nayarit), Panama, and Peru
- Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Lithuania, Namibia, Peru, Slovakia, and South Africa
- Swine Vesicular Disease: Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia
- Tuberculosis (TB): Review efforts to regionalize the certain Mexican States for TB are ongoing.

Processing an exporting country's request for regionalization is a lengthy process, as it requires a formal request with supporting information (in English), clarification as to further information needs and receipt of this information, one or more site visits to corroborate and further clarify the information received, a risk assessment which may be qualitative or quantitative (quantitative if commodity is from a country vaccinating for a particularly contagious disease), the determination of appropriate mitigation to reduce any risk to a negligible level, the preparation of a proposed rule, a public comment period, the evaluation of and response to all relevant comments received, the preparation of the final rule, final clearances and finally publication and follow up implementation. Further, for meat and meat products, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service must conduct an equivalence evaluation, which also requires rules changes.

The lengthy evaluative processes that the USDA conducts has been

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characterized as a frustrating experience for the applying country because the time involved may be several years before the meritorious rules change is finally promulgated.

Dr. Percy Hawkes, International Animal Health and Plant Health Regulatory Programs, Payson, UT; Los Andes, Chile, reported on issues related to the import-export of fetal bovine serum. The following is a summary of his report:

USDA-APHIS-VS has the responsibility of ensuring that fetal bovine serum (FBS) imported from other countries is free of pathogens which do not exist in the United States and pose a risk to the U.S. livestock population. Since BSE has become the main disease limiting the trade of live cattle, meats and bovine products throughout the world, the limited supply of USDA approved FBS has not been able to keep up with the demand, resulting in price differences that make USDA approved FBS as much as 10 times higher than non USDA approved FBS. This price difference rewards smuggling and misrepresentation of FBS between origins, thus putting at risk the traceability and safety of "USDA approved FBS", throughout the world. World demand is increasing steadily at approx. 4-5% per year and both supply and demand are inelastic to price.

Gamma irradiation has been used by USDA-APHIS-VS for several decades, as a method to inactivate potential pathogens in ruminant serum imported from countries known to have livestock diseases that do not occur in the United States. Importations ruminant serum have been authorized by USDA-APHIS-VS in limited quantities for developmental research and diagnostic purposes by both governmental and private institutions. Gamma irradiation is currently being used as approved treatments to eliminate potential pathogens in medical products used for both human and animal medical applications. Gamma irradiation is also authorized by USDA for the treatment of many food products of animal and plant origin. Many research laboratories and biologics manufacturers can use gamma irradiated serum from BSE free countries, especially in those applications where the absence of BSE is most critical. Currently, there are multiple companies already approved and monitored by USDA and FDA for gamma irradiation of multiple products in operation. They breakdown as follows: 20 companies in United States, 3 companies approved in Brazil, 2 companies approved in Argentina, 1 in Chile and 1 in Mexico. FBS, in small quantities, is presently imported from countries where FMD exists but is irradiated after arrival to prevent introduction of exotic animal disease. To allow the importation of larger commercial shipments of gamma irradiated FBS from countries and/or regions that are free of BSE, but have restrictions because of other pathogens that can be eliminated by gamma irradiation will help assure a reliable, affordable, safe and continuous supply of pathogen-free FBS to research laboratories and

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biologics manufacturers in the United States. It will further facilitate a level of harmonization between USDA and EU requirements and reduce the economic incentive for illegal trade of FBS.

Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, Executive Director, Animal Products Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, presented "BSE...A Canadian Perspective on the North American Lessons Learned". The following is a summary of his presentation:

The world has become highly interconnected and rapidly traversed. One nation's problem soon becomes everyone's national problem. BSE has become a global problem. Since 1986, BSE has been confirmed in 23 countries in their indigenous cattle populations and this number is expected to continue to increase in the years to come. In addition, 3 countries have reported imported cases of BSE. As of September 30, 2004 approximately 189,000 cases have been reported worldwide with almost 184,000 in the United Kingdom. In 2003, the annual incidence rates based on number of cases per million animals over twenty-four months of age ranged from 186.95 (Portugal) to 0.33 (Canada). In the U.K., the number of cases peaked in 1992 at 37,280 and had declined to 612 in 2003. As of July, 169 cases have been reported in 2004. The epidemiological link to new variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease in 1996 created significant public concern fueled by projections of 10 million human deaths by 2080. As of 2003, these estimates have been reduced to project between 40 and 500 additional cases over the next 70 years. In the face of these reduced estimates public perception has not followed suit. The Canadian experience with BSE has provided the following insights and lessons.

- Each industry's primary market is its domestic market
- Consumer and public confidence is the foundation of rational policy making and market recovery
- Sectoral interests are both interdependent and conflicting
- Risk communication must be timely, consistent and transparent
- Emergency management is 30% pathogen control, 30% relationship management and 40% risk communication
- Emergency preparedness and response will always be more developed than recovery
- International confidence is a function of investments in surveillance, reporting, transparency and traceability
- Hemispheric alliances should be founded on international standards
- There are many kinds of science
- Export dependency increases need for investment in infrastructure, including investments in improving awareness and edu-

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cation in improving and increasing domestic slaughter capacity

- Industry to industry relationships are as important as Government to Government
- Animal health and public health communities are not yet seamless
- Myths, misunderstanding and misconceptions around BSE persist
- Difficult to justify investments being made based on relative risk
- Science based measures and standards can only be as effective as the weakest human factor in the chain and the political will to implement them.
- Never say never, never say always
 - o certification based on country status may be hazardous to your health

Mr. Steven G. Hennager, Serology Section, Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory, NVSL, presented the latest progress on the development of serologic tests for equine Piroplasmosis, Glanders, and Dourine. The following is a summary of his report:

Import equine serum samples are tested for antibodies to detect exposure to piroplasmosis, glanders, and dourine. For all three diseases the current test is the complement fixation (CF) test. The CF test has advantages in detecting acute infected animals, however the antigens are difficult to produce and the test is subject to yielding no test results on some horse sera. A new piroplasmosis competitive enzyme linked-immunosorbent assay (cELISA) has been developed and approved for use on import and export sera. This test will be implemented on November 1, 2004 at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. The new test will have the advantage of high specificity and consistent test results. A cELISA test for glanders has been developed and the validation information has been presented for approval. Investigative studies on dourine immune response have been initiated with a view to develop a new serologic test.

Dr. Peter Fernandez, Associate Administrator, USDA-APHIS, reported on the BSE related negotiations with Japan in an effort to regain our ability to export beef, bovine semen and embryos to Japan after having been excluded from their market. He briefly outlined that initial negotiations were based on scientific foundations. Later discussions and the current agreement were based on marketing aspects, with the current agreement allowing for input and guidance from the scientific community.

Mr. David Winters, Texas Animal Health Commission, Del Rio, Texas, gave a short presentation on some of the events occurring on the Mexi-

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can border. He spoke of an incident at a border crossing resulting in the death of about 20 zebu type cattle that had been dipped for ticks on the Mexican side of the border with a solution that was about double strength. He also pointed out that trucks bringing livestock into the United States were often in line for hours waiting for the x-ray techniques used by the DHS for all trucks coming into the United States. Trucks with live animals had to stay in line with all other vehicles.

Dr. George Winegar read a letter from the FDA indicating that prior notice of live animals arriving at a U.S. border point would be necessary after June 4, 2004. Discussion followed and VS representatives indicated that FDA and DHS consider that the inspections and activities of the VS port personnel would suffice. The port APHIS personnel are to be notified by the shipper or his agent prior to the arrival of the animals.

Three resolutions were approved by the Committee and forwarded to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions for approval by the general membership. They addressed:

- 1) Requesting the USDA to study the feasibility of importing Fetal Bovine Serum from countries that are free of BSE but affected by other diseases such as FMD.
- 2) Urging USDA to communicate with DHS the need to develop a process to allow vehicles with live animals on board to advance ahead of other vehicles in line that are carrying inanimate cargo to enhance the well being of the animals and avoidance of cruelty to animals.
- 3) Resolution # 21 from the 2003 Annual Meeting was re-affirmed. It requests DHS-CBP to recognize that prevention of animal and plant diseases must be considered a high priority; to reconsider the de-emphasis of agriculture inspections at medium and large ports of entry and the elimination of agriculture inspections at small ports of entry; and to reassign legacy agriculture inspectors with appropriate skills as CBP Agriculture Specialists and that CBP officer positions be open to all legacy customs, immigration and agriculture inspectors.