

COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

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The Committee met on October 2, 2011 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York, from 12:30-5:30 pm. There were 35 people present, 13 members and 22 guests. Charles Brown was unable to attend. George Winegar chaired the meeting. Mark Engle served as Vice Chair.

The Use of MIM Application in Minnesota for Cattle Exports

Susan L. McClanahan, MN Board of Animal Health

Dr. McClanahan detailed the value of using RFID and the Tuberculosis Mobile Information Management system (MIM) for TB surveillance to establish a negative bovine TB status and effectively represent that status to the nation. The complete text of this presentation is included at the end of this report.

Process for approving Ports of Embarkation/Export Inspection Facilities

Paul Ugstad, Associate Director East Region, APHIS, VS

Dr. Ugstad discussed a process improvement initiative for Ports of Embarkation. Report pending.

Activities of APHIS' National Center for Import and Export for FY2011

Bob Bokma, Export products NCIE

Joyce Bowling, Export animals NCIE

Dawn Hunter, Import products and by-products NCIE

Drs. Bokma, Bowling-Heyward, and Hunter reviewed NCIE activities regarding export of products and animals and import of products and by-products. An outline of their presentations is included at the end of this report.

CFIA – Report on import/export activity in Canada and changes in regulations affecting livestock movement from the US

Ann Allain, Senior Veterinary Officer, Terrestrial Animal Health Division, CFIA

Dr. Allain reviewed import requirements for CFIA to import live animals into Canada. Issues with brucella testing for swine were addressed. An outline of her presentation is included at the end of this report.

Summary – Communicating Across Species: Preparing For An FMD Outbreak

Presented by the FMD Cross-Species Communications Team

Prepared by: Cindy Cunningham, Assistant Vice President, Communications, National Pork Board

Ms. Cunningham discussed the developing message regarding the supply of pork, milk and beef in the event of an FMD outbreak. An outline of her presentation is included at the end of this report.

Export of poultry meat, pork products and other commodities from Mexico, Central America, and the Carribean into the US.

Arnaldo Vaquer

Dr. Vaquer expressed the need to update veterinary programs, diagnostics, and disease surveillance in Mexico, Central America, and the Dominican Republic to meet international standards. The complete text of this presentation is included at the end of this report.

Committee Business

The Committee received a resolution from the Joint Committee on Animal Emergency Management. The resolution is entitled Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for Canada/USA Livestock Movement. The resolution states: *The United States Animal Health Association urges USDA APHIS VS and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to collaborate in designing their Information Technology Systems so they are compatible in order to implement electronic certification to expedite movement of livestock across the United States-Canada border.*

The Committee took a vote to support the resolution promoting electronic certification of animal movements between the U.S. and Canada. The membership voted unanimously to support the resolution.

The Use of MIM Application in Minnesota for Cattle Exports

Susan L. McClanahan

Minnesota Board of Animal Health

In July 2005, Minnesota identified the first bovine tuberculosis (TB) infected herd in the state since 1971. By 2009, a total of twelve cattle herds were found infected with TB. All herds were from two counties in northwest Minnesota and were subsequently depopulated. The state's TB status was downgraded to modified-accredited-advanced (MAA) in January 2006 and then to modified-accredited (MA) in April 2008. After completing a statewide surveillance effort of over 1500 herds in December 2007 and a TB review, Minnesota was granted split state status on October 10, 2008. In October of 2010, Minnesota received an upgrade in status to TB-accredited-free with the exception of the MA zone which was upgraded to MAA status. In May of 2011, the Minnesota BAH submitted an application for statewide bovine TB-Free status to the USDA.

Since 2005, over 700,000 cattle have been TB tested in Minnesota. To improve the accuracy of ear tag data recorded during the TB testing and movement of cattle, the BAH implemented the use Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology along with the Tuberculosis Mobile Information Management (TB MIM) application system in 2008. Developed in Michigan by Nate Plumm, who's now employed by the USDA, the TB MIM has greatly improved the accuracy and traceability of ear tag data from cattle TB tested in the MAA zone. This system allows veterinarians that are TB testing livestock to capture livestock identification information into a hand held Computer (PDA) at the chute. Once the data is entered into the PDA, it can then be transferred into Excel spreadsheets or TB test charts. The data is also uploaded to the BAH database where it is used to record test results, generate TB test charts, record herd inventories and trace livestock movement. The MIM application along with the RFID tags enable BAH staff and private practitioners to effectively test more livestock in a shorter amount of time, with increased accuracy and less cost. Thus far, the BAH has used the MIM system to identify and test over 80,000 animals in the MAA zone. In addition, two veterinary clinics in the MAA zone are actively using the TB MIM application with ease.

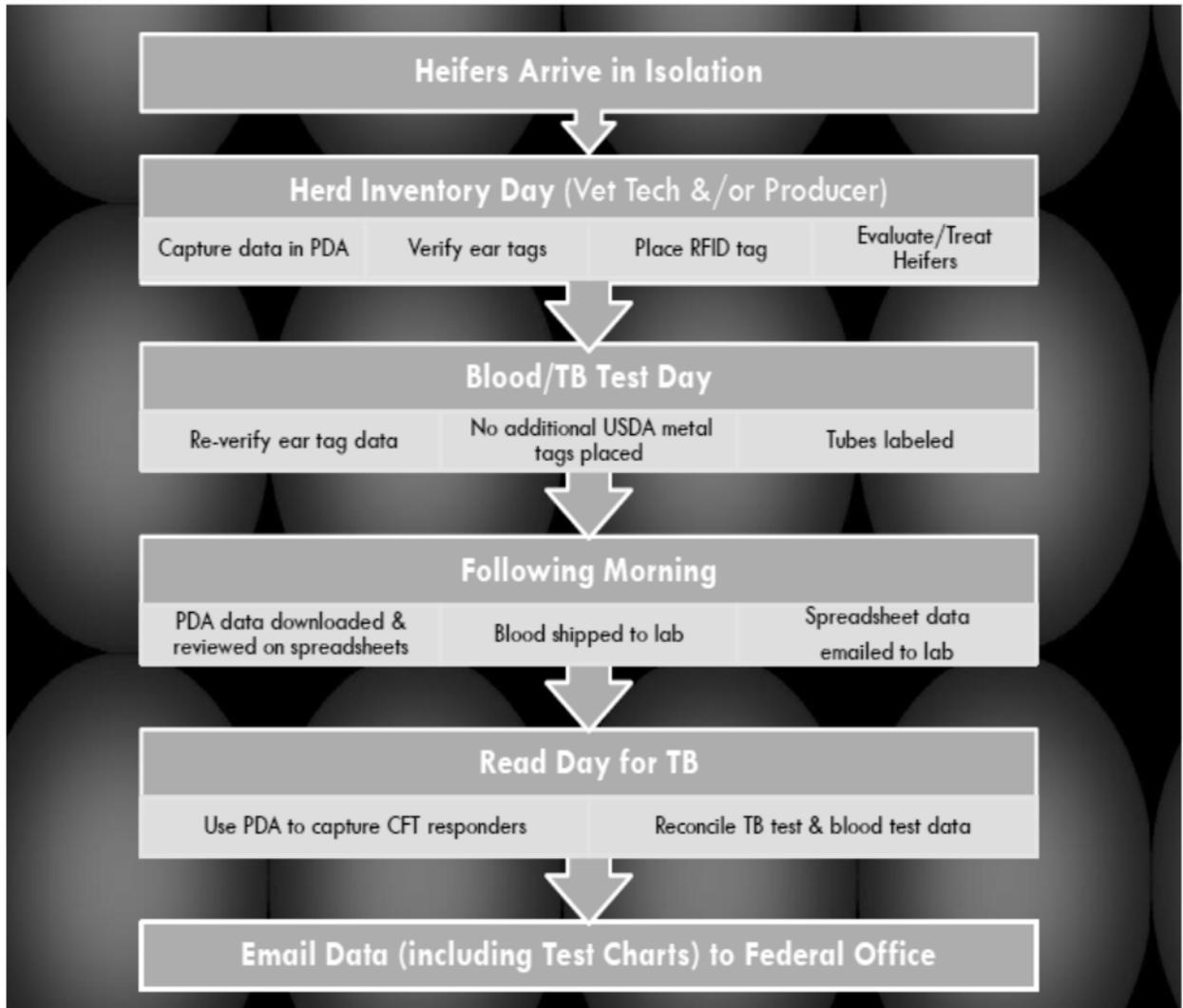
In October of 2010, the BAH explored the idea of offering the MIM application to private practitioners, producers, and exporters who are involved with extensive TB testing of cattle in Minnesota. Since January of 2011, over 10,000 dairy heifers destined for export were TB tested by private veterinary practitioners using the MIM application. Ear tag data captured during TB and blood testing is electronically uploaded into the BAH database, and emailed to the involved testing lab from the veterinary clinics. Currently, five veterinary practices are using the MIM application in Minnesota under the support and guidance of the BAH. Ear tag data quality control measures remain a component of the application as well. Feedback from the veterinary clinics has been excellent and proven to be very cost effective while markedly improving the traceability of cattle in Minnesota. The application has been used extensively in Michigan for its TB eradication program, and now in Ohio for the export of cattle.

The TB MIM application has proven to be of great benefit to producers and exporters. The application has multiple functionalities allowing the capture of accurate data related to the health status of the cattle. Since the ear tag and health data is captured chute side, processing crews and/or vet techs are able to efficiently record all pertinent data. "Alerts" may also be created on the PDA allowing easy identification of non-selected cattle when RFID tags are wanded. The cattle can then be sorted out at the end of the isolation period before shipment to the port. Downloaded into excel spreadsheets, the exporter is now able to evaluate health trends, design intervention strategies (such as the reduction in the number of non-selected cattle), and produce performance reports related to the source of the cattle. In addition, 2nd sequential USDA metal ear tags (valued at \$.25/tag) are no longer necessary for blood testing and may reduce the risk of BLV transmission among cattle. The MIM application provides

the producer and exporter with an ACCURATE inventory and health status of the animals on the premises.

This MIM project continues to expand in Minnesota as the BAH, veterinary clinics, producers, and exporters see the benefits associated with this application. More information on the MIM application and the required equipment can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/TB-MIM>. We encourage all stakeholders interested in MIM application to contact either Dr. Susan McClanahan or Ray Scheierl at the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

Figure 1. One suggested strategy for capture of ear tag and health data while cattle are in pre-export isolation.



Approval of Ports of Embarkation Process
Paul Ugstad
Associate Director, Eastern Region
USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services

APHIS approves ports of embarkation (POE) and associated export inspection facilities (EIF) as part of its efforts to help animal industries and producers export animals. Approving ports and facilities is part of a larger effort to ensure that exported animals meet the importing country's requirements, are generally healthy, and are fit to travel before they embark.

Over the last five years, the U.S. has seen dramatic increases in exports of animals especially in cattle (12,000 in 2006 to over 48,000 in 2011). Concurrent with increases in animal exports, is an increase in requests for approval of temporary EIFs (from 37 in five years—2006 to 2010 to 24 in 2011 alone).

Exporters note the difficulty in locating EIFs at the POE because of the lack of space or the expense of the space. APHIS has been concerned about the health and welfare of animals when the EIF and POE are increasingly further apart. While a review of the scientific literature does not support a specific distance, it does suggest that closer is better. In light of the increases in exports and the increased requests for EIFs and POEs, APHIS plans to expand the official, acceptable reasons for requesting for newly or specially designated POEs and EIFs, clarify the requirements, and provide better guidance to exporters and staff.

Specifically, the changes will include:

1. Revisions to the regulations to expand the number of acceptable reasons for exporters to request a newly designated or specially designated port of embarkation or export inspection facility.
2. Regulations that are written with the required outcomes clearly defined and less specification about how to achieve those outcomes.
3. A requirement for exporters to develop a written contingency plan should the animals be compromised when moving them from the EIF to the POE that are further than 2 hours apart.
4. Clearer guidance for exporters and staff including clarity about the expectation for the distance between EIFs and POEs.

**National Center for Import and Export (NCIE)
FY 2011 Activities**

Dr. Robert Bokma, Dr. Joyce Bowling-Hayward, Dr. Dawn Hunter
USDA-APHIS

Export Animal Products Area

Veterinary Services has now fully implemented the use of security paper for the export of animal products. VS also now uses fillable certificates (VS 16-4, 16-4A), including the general "Export Certificate for Animal Products" and a number of letterhead certificates specific for certain commodities and countries. These new forms and procedures do not apply for certificates covering exports of veterinary biologics or of live animals or genetics.

Veterinary Services has now fully taken over the certification for export to Mexico of the following animal products: dairy products for human consumption, animal feeds, and hides. Many certificates for these commodities were previously issued by APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine officers located near border ports and commodity brokers. Export product certificates are issued now exclusively by veterinary medical officers, at a VS Area or field office.

New inspection packages have now been implemented for use in qualifying production facilities for animal products intended for export to the European Union. Revised regulations (242/2011) replace the EU 1774 rules have now been implemented by the EU. These require prior inspection and approval for an increased number of commodities. All certificates issued by Veterinary Services must be from inspected and approved production facilities.

NCIE export staff officers continue working to eliminate bans and restrictions due to BSE and low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza.

Some 103,986 export certificates were issued by APHIS for animal products during Fiscal Year 2011 (through September 20, 2011). Among commodities certified were dairy products (39.1 %), hides and skins (14.2 %), animal feeds not including pet foods (12.3 %), pet foods (10.4 %), blood products (7.7 %), and meat and bone meals (3.4 %). These data also include certificates for pharmaceutical and biological products (2.7 %).

OIE

The NCIE also continued in its work interacting with the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). More detailed information is being presented by Dr. Michael David in the meeting of the Committee on International Standards (Monday, October 3). A few highlights emphasize recognition of country and regions for animal disease and the work on changes to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code that impact the United States.

A number of changes in disease status (FMD, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), and/or BSE status). Regarding countries and zones where FMD vaccination is practiced, certain zones in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Colombia and Turkey were recognized as free with vaccination. In regions where FMD vaccination is not practiced, certain zones were recognized as free of FMD in Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Malaysia, Moldova, Namibia, Peru, and the Philippines. FMD freedom was suspended in the Thrace region of Turkey, and Bulgaria, South Africa and Korea. Regarding CBPP, the People's Republic of China was recognized. Regarding BSE, two countries, Panama and Denmark, were upgraded in status from controlled to negligible risk.

The OIE expects to take on the task of developing the criteria and questionnaires that would grant official recognition for African horse sickness (AHS), CSF, and Newcastle disease.

A remarkable highlight was that the OIE in the General Session declared that the world achieved "freedom from Rinderpest in its natural setting," and that it will "undertake to reduce the number of institutions holding virus-containing material."

Regarding the OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code, there were some significant changes acted on at the OIE's May 2011 General Session. These included a modification of definition of the term "wildlife" in the Code as "feral animals, captive animals and wild animals."

The chapter (Chapter 15.2) on classical swine fever was affected by the change in definition of wildlife noted previously. The OIE withdrew the CSF chapter as a result of discussion and it will be presented again for consideration at the May 2012 General Session.

Based on comments regarding vesicular stomatitis (Chapter 8.15) provided by the United States, a list of safe commodities that can be traded regardless of the vesicular stomatitis status of a country was added and adopted by the General Assembly.

Regarding Newcastle disease (Chapter 10.13), again based on comments and support by the United States, the OIE adjusted the time/temperature parameters recommended for inactivating Newcastle disease virus in poultry meat.

An updated chapter (Chapter 12.9) on equine viral arteritis was adopted by the General Session. The United States has requested that the necessity for testing young colts (those between 6 and 9 months old) be reconsidered given that they are not likely to be bred, and that they will be repeatedly vaccinated throughout their lives.

The OIE is proceeding with a revision of the criteria that will determine which diseases to list; no new diseases will be added to the list until such criteria are first proposed and then presented for adoption. The diseases listed by the OIE likely will change as new criteria adopted. Thereafter some listed diseases could be delisted and other diseases could be listed.

A proposed new chapter on 'Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production' was not adopted. The U.S. urged that any final chapter be science-based and outcome focused. The revised Chapter is expected to be resubmitted for adoption in May 2012.

APHIS VS NCIE LIVE ANIMALS

The NCIE Import-Export Animals Staff has focused on plans to revise and streamline regulations, update import and export protocols where they are outdated, and standardize procedures for import and export of live animals. An additional priority is to maximize our use of technology for issuance of documents, by improving on the systems that are already available. Staff is also focused on making improvements to our website to make information more readily accessible and transparent to the public.

ANIMAL EXPORT

NCIE develops export protocols, participates in negotiations, and provides technical expertise in developing, retaining, and expanding export markets for US-origin animals and germplasm. Most notable, cattle exports have increased tremendously to Russia, Turkey, Canada and Mexico. Exports of US origin breeding cattle to Turkey increased from \$7 million in 2009 to \$76 million in 2010 and to a record \$110 million for the first half of 2011, with possibility of reaching \$200 million by the end of the year.

In FY 2011, NCIE:

- Opened 41 new markets in 27 countries, including cattle to Serbia and Vietnam; swine, sheep and goats to Jamaica and China; falcons to EU; and horses to Nicaragua, Argentina, and Jamaica.
- Negotiated retention of 29 markets in 18 countries (trade never stopped but the importing country threatened to shut down market).
- Expanded 43 markets in 26 countries (removed requirements or simplified certifications that would allow more animals to be exported).
- Sent 25 proposals to 14 countries for negotiation.

NCIE animal export staff are also responsible for requesting and negotiating exceptions to normal trade circumstances for shipments that need special consideration, or for shipments that have been detained at a foreign port, and for reviewing and harmonizing testing that is required for exported animals.

In addition to negotiating export protocols, NCIE facilitated international trade by serving as a technical liaison, providing technical support for visits (for audits or training) from foreign veterinarians, participating on international committees, attending meetings/conference calls, preparing letters/reports/briefings for senior level leaders, responding to notices (issued by foreign countries) to the World Trade Organization and responding to the impact of US animal disease outbreaks on exports.

NCIE negotiates the release of detained shipments and receives derogations from foreign requirements for trade in animals. NCIE staff officers provided support to VS field staff, VS Regional and Area Offices, the US animal export industry, and the public by providing direction and responding to questions. NCIE staffs also provide interpretation of the foreign animal import requirements as well as develop associated policies to facilitate trade. NCIE handles dozens of queries each month about companion animals (including efforts to release pets detained at the entry points in foreign countries) as well as negotiating new protocols for exporting pets to foreign countries.

In FY 2011, NCIE staff provided 2 separate export certification courses for veterinary medical officers (VMOs) and export document examiners. NCIE staff presented at training courses on aquaculture for VMOs. Additional training was provided to VMOs inspecting facilities for export of embryos and semen to the EU.

Three regulation changes were completed in 2011 affecting export:

1. The list of ports of embarkation was removed from the CFR and placed on the APHIS website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/pt_e.pdf
2. Mandatory TB and brucellosis testing was removed for goats exported to countries that do not require this testing.
3. Mandatory export testing requirements were removed for exported swine.

NCIE continued working on fillable PDF versions of export forms. VS Form 7001 is complete, and VS forms 17-41 and 17-37 are under construction. NCIE continues work to make it easier to access information on our website.

NCIE organized several visits for foreign delegations that came to the US to audit our live animal export procedures.

- Mexico came to evaluate our BSE control measures for cattle,
- Australia came to evaluate our export inspection procedures for horses,
- Jamaica came to evaluate our control measures for goats
- China came to evaluate our control measures for export of bovine embryos and semen
- Thailand came to evaluate our control measures for poultry, as well as bovine and swine semen

Other foreign visitors were part of technical exchange programs and NCIE staff provided presentations on the roles and responsibilities of APHIS, explained our veterinary infrastructure and described US systems of animal disease control. These training activities build more personal international relations and help build foreign veterinary capacity both of which indirectly facilitate the flow of international trade in animals and animal products.

NCIE has started working with a contractor on a pilot electronic certification project. System should be ready for testing in 2012. It is an extension of the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking System used by APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine.

ANIMAL IMPORT

NCIE is responsible for negotiating import protocols, notifying field of import requirements, and setting standards to be followed at animal import centers and land border ports. In addition, many of the import and transit permits for live animals are issued by NCIE. Training is provided to the field on proper import quarantine procedures. NCIE coordinates with laboratory people to ensure that import tests are the most effective. Changes to import requirements are communicated to trading partners, world trade organization (WTO), and the public.

NCIE issued over 1,600 import permits for regulated animals and commodities. In addition, complicated import and transit requests for live animals are coordinated with the field to ensure that animals are properly monitored while in transit, or en route to an animal import center.

NCIE import animals staff monitors world animal disease status, and coordinates any response involving appropriate import requirements and/or restrictions. Import alerts are sent to notify field personnel about changes in disease status and/or import requirements. NCIE also responds to numerous questions and requests for information from the public.

NCIE animal import staff is working to reorganize information on our website to make it more user friendly. In addition as domestic programs are updated (especially TB and brucellosis), import regulations will be reorganized and simplified to make import requirements more transparent. This process will continue into FY 2012.

NCIE staff participated in training course for Mexican border port inspectors. In addition, a number of VS Memoranda were revised to standardize procedures at animal import centers. This included updates to import requirements for Mexican cattle due to changes in TB status of various regions. APHIS sent a team to the European Union to evaluate procedures within the EU to determine compliance with US import requirements.

NCIE is working with a contractor on a pilot project within the E-Permits system to allow live animal importers to submit their application online for an import permit. This system should also be ready for testing in 2012. This will decrease work for permit examiners and facilitate the flow of information between importers and NCIE.

A pilot project using electronic certificates for Mexican cattle for import was deemed a success; however the system is not yet ready to be implemented on a large scale. NCIE will be able to use the information gained from this pilot to improve communication between countries when we move toward accepting electronic certification for import.

APHIS VS NCIE Import Products/By-products

- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Comprehensive Rule;

The BSE Comprehensive Rule will establish BSE-related import provisions which are more closely aligned with OIE guidelines including country risk status classifications (Negligible, Controlled, and Undetermined). It will also allow flexibility in the BSE risk classification process allowing APHIS to concur with OIE BSE determinations. However, this will not eliminate independent APHIS evaluation of any country or region for BSE status. A country will be considered undetermined risk until such time that APHIS determines it to be Negligible or Controlled Risk. Countries unevaluated by APHIS will remain in the undetermined risk category. Recognition will be based on the following criteria;

- (1) APHIS concurrence with OIE classification, OR
- (2) APHIS evaluation, upon request, of countries not classified by the OIE

The BSE Comprehensive Rule will eliminate the need for formal rulemaking for each individual country/region. The importation of bovines and bovine products from BSE minimal-risk regions (Canada) and for boneless beef from Japan (kobe beef) would be removed from the Federal Register and incorporated into the rule. It would instead allow the importation of additional bovine and bovine products into the United States from all negligible and controlled risk regions using requirements based on OIE guidelines.

- Milk/milk products
- Semen and in-vivo derived embryos
- Hides/skins and Gelatin/Collagen from hides/skins
- Deboned meat (excluding MSM) from cattle ≤30 months of age provided the animals pass ante- and post-mortem inspection, specified risk materials (SRM) are removed, and they were not subjected to an air injected stunning process or pithing
- Protein-free tallow and derivatives made from this tallow
- Dicalcium phosphate with no trace of protein or fat
- Blood/blood by-products derived from cattle not subjected to an air injected stunning process or pithing, and collected in a manner that avoids contamination
- Ruminant meat-and-bone meal (MBM) and greaves from controlled and undetermined risk countries will remain as prohibited materials.

OIE Code	APHIS' Proposed Rule	Explanation
BSE standards apply to "cattle."	Proposed rule applies to "bovines" (includes cattle and bison).	Bison are important to trade in North America. Published information indicates that, along with other bovines, bison are susceptible to BSE.
Recommends allowing trade in live cattle from countries of undetermined risk, provided they were born at least 2 years after the date of effective enforcement of a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban in the exporting country.	Will not allow the importation of live bovines from regions of BSE undetermined risk.	While a contributing mitigating measure, a feed ban is not the sole determinant of BSE risk. APHIS does not have enough information regarding countries of undetermined risk to confidently assess the risk of importing live bovines from such countries.
Any age: Tonsils and distal ileum	Any Age: tonsils and distal ileum 30 months or older: tonsils, distal	APHIS' definition of SRMs is consistent with FSIS. While the

Over 12 months: tonsils, distal ileum, brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull, and vertebral column Over 30 months: tonsils, distal ileum, brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull, and vertebral column	ileum, brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (except the vertebrae of the tail, transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and the dorsal root ganglia	vertebral column has not demonstrated BSE infectivity it contains the dorsal root ganglia (DRG) and spinal cord, which have demonstrated infectivity. The transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, the vertebrae of the tail, and the wings of the sacrum do not contain spinal cord or DRG.
Many of the guidelines prohibit feeding ruminant based meat-and-bone meal (MBM) and greaves to other ruminants.	Broadens these prohibitions to include other processed animal protein.	APHIS' expansion of the prohibitions is to guard against feeding other processed animal proteins that could be contaminated by SRMs.
OIE does provide dates for when a region has implemented an effectively enforced ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban.	APHIS will evaluate negligible or controlled risk regions to determine a date of effective enforcement of the ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban if that region requests to export live cattle to the United States.	This applies only to live animals which present a greater risk for introduction of BSE as opposed to products from which SRMs are removed at slaughter. A site visit will be required.

- Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Rule;
OIE Code does not address BSE risk for ovines/caprines. Therefore, a separate rule and risk assessment currently under revision that will address import requirements for TSEs and allow importation of sheep and goats, their embryos, and their products/by products from countries classified as Negligible or Controlled Risk for BSE under certain conditions.
- Newcastle Disease/Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (END/HPAI) Interim Rule;
The END/HPAI Interim Rule is a revision of USDA policy regarding the importation of bird and poultry products from regions where END and HPAI are considered to exist. Previous USDA HPAI restrictions focused only on the H5N1 subtype. The Interim Rule applies to all HPAI subtypes. Changes include the addition of a specific cooking requirement (74°C internal temperature) to mitigate END and HPAI and a provision allowing exporting countries to certify that they have employed this mitigation as part of the export process.
The END/HPAI Final Rule is currently under revision.
- Regionalization;
Brazil: Final rule recognizing the State of Santa Catarina as free of FMD, rinderpest, Classical Swine Fever (CSF), African Swine Fever (ASF), and Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD).
Published 11/16/10
APHIS Defined EU CSF Region: Proposed rule to recognize the addition of Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia to the APHIS defined EU CSF regions. (Includes removal of restrictions on the importation of swine semen from the EU.) Published 2/11/11
Uruguay: Proposed rule to establish conditions for the importation of lamb and sheep meat from Uruguay. Published 2/24/11
Switzerland and Liechtenstein: Proposed rule to recognize Switzerland and Liechtenstein as low-risk for CSF and Liechtenstein as FMD/SVD free. Published 5/19/11.
END and HPAI in EU Member States: Proposed rule to recognize as low risk for END and HPAI. Published 7/19/11.
- VS 2015
Under the heading of VS 2015, an important Animal Products initiative is to streamline the animal products import regulations in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This initiative will be done in

stages, starting with Part 94, proceeding to Part 95, followed by Part 96. We have begun to lay out the changes needed for part 94. Our current thinking about the revision is as follows:

- Reorganize and clarify the language in this part to make it easier to understand.
- Make disease mitigation requirements less prescriptive and more performance based. Add a notice-based process and risk-based criteria for acceptance of new disease mitigation procedures.
- Make miscellaneous updates and corrections identified during regulation review.

Imports and Exports
Terrestrial Animal Health Division, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Dr. L. Ann Allain
Senior Staff Veterinarian, Imports
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

The Terrestrial Animal Health Division (TAHD) of the CFIA is divided into the following sections, under the direction of Dr Francine Lord, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Canada and Director TAHD.

1. Animal Health and Welfare Management
2. Foreign Animal Disease and Emergency Management
3. Epidemiology and Surveillance
4. Import Export
5. Canadian Center for Veterinary Biologics
6. Pet Food

The published vision of the CFIA is “To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.” The CFIA mission statement is that CFIA is “Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada’s people, environment and economy.”

Import/Export Section Responsibilities

The basis of safe international trade in Animals, AP, ABP, is the zoosanitary certificate. The CFIA health certificate is a legal Canadian document which confirms that the sanitary requirements of an importing country have been complied with. All animals, AP/ABP imported into Canada or exported from Canada must meet the requirements of the importing country. The senior staff veterinary officers’ assigned duties within the Import Export section of TAHD include providing advice and veterinary expertise for veterinarians, producers and exporters and importers. Certain commodities such as livestock, poultry, animal embryos and animal semen and all rendered products exported from Canada must be accompanied by a health certificate issued (or endorsed) by a CFIA veterinary inspector. This is a Canadian legislative requirement.

The TAHD mandate encompasses the “One world, One health” concept. Senior staff veterinarians make the link between animal and public health throughout the scope of their work. As summarized by the Public Health Agency of Canada “*The One World One Health (OWOH) concept proposes an international, interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach to surveillance, monitoring, prevention, control and mitigation of emerging diseases, as well as to environmental conservation (from OWOH Strategic Framework, 2008). It recognizes the linkages between animal, human and ecosystem health domains. Broadly stated, the OWOH concept provides a framework for preventing emerging infectious diseases of animal origin, instead of simply responding to them once they have occurred.*”¹

Various parameters that affect our work as federal regulators:

- Increasing trade/new commodities
- Increased public awareness and scrutiny of food safety and agricultural practices
- Increasing competition around urban areas for agricultural land
- Animal welfare linked to animal health;
- Emerging market access considerations for animal welfare and health (animal/public)

Import Export TAHD deals with import and export of live animals and germplasm, and animal products and animal by-products (AP/ABP). Import requirements are found in policies and procedures. These are outcome based; complying with Canadian regulatory requirements. CFIA has a flexible import permit system which allows the import conditions to referencing international standards of scientific bodies or scientific risk assessment. The exports side of our work ensures that Canadian animal, AP/ABP exports are certified to meet the sanitary requirements of the importing countries.

The main legislation for trade (import & export) in Animals, AP/ABP the [Health of Animals Act and Regulations](#), along with the associated [Import Reference Document](#). This allows for the importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal pathogens, and other things (such as used

¹ Public Health Agency of Canada. One World One Health. *Proceedings from Ideas to Action*; Mar 16-19; Winnipeg (MB). 2009. Available: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2009/er-rc/pdf/er-rc-eng.pdf>

equipment) under certain conditions. The importer of animals, or their products or by-products is obligated to ensure compliance with the specific requirements of all CFIA policies and directives that fall under the pertinent legislative authority by animal or commodity, such as the [Meat Inspection Act and Regulations](#), [Feeds Act and Regulations](#), and the [Fertilizers Act and Regulations](#).

The objective of the Export Program is to ensure that only healthy animals and animal products and by-products which meet the import health requirements of an importing country are exported from Canada, and that in the case of live animals they are transported in a humane manner. TAHD Senior Veterinary Officers are the export negotiators; they are assigned specific commodities; our duties are not assigned by country for either import or export, but rather commodity type, i.e. there are different import and export senior staff veterinarians assigned the following files:

Ruminants; Swine; Horses; Poultry and birds; Animal products and by products

The export senior staff veterinary negotiator is responsible for communications on certification with veterinary authorities (trading partners) concerning this commodity. They initiate negotiations when appropriate and negotiate the import conditions with officials of an importing country's veterinary service. They ensure that agreed conditions of export reflect the Canadian situation and try to ensure the export certifications is as practical and as cost-effective as possible. They participate in missions abroad and host missions of foreign veterinary authorities visiting Canada

Current export certificates can be found on the CFIA website:

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/export/exporte.shtml

Export Missions & Meetings (to Canada or overseas) in 2010 took place with the following trading partners:

1. Philippine & Taiwan- AP&ABP
2. Chile - Poultry and Semen (small ruminant)
3. Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) - Live Cattle
4. China -Tallow (ABP)
5. USA - ABP

And in 2011 those that have occurred or are planned include the following:

1. China - Ruminant Semen and embryos
2. Russia trade union - Certification; Swine & Cattle
3. Pakistan – Small ruminants
4. Moldova – Cattle
5. India – Swine
6. Thailand – Swine, Cattle Semen & embryos
7. China – AI & Semen collection centers
8. COTASA – small Ruminants

A senior staff veterinarian's responsibilities (in both exports & imports) is to interpret and provide advice on export/import conditions to area/regional and operational staff; and the public; and trading partners. They also liaise with scientific staff in laboratories in Canada and elsewhere to ensure that tests being requested can be carried out, are based on OIE recommendations/valid science and are appropriate to the commodity.

The Import Program's goal is to prevent the introduction of, or spread within Canada, of important diseases transmissible by animals, animal products or animal by-products as well as dealing with toxic substances. The development of import procedural directive includes the following considerations:

- Country of origin health status assessments
- Border controls in country of origin
- OIE standards, recommendations,
- Treatment and end use of the commodity
- Mitigation measures which can be applied
- Risk Analysis – product and country

To evaluate what will provide an acceptable level of protection to Canada while establishing import requirements, we consider several factors. Firstly Canada's domestic legislation, policies, and procedures must be adhered to. The country of origin: CFIA's assessment of a country's animal health status for diseases of concern. Other factors which go into development of import conditions include the epidemiology of specific diseases; surveillance methods within the country of origin; knowledge of the country's veterinary infrastructure and competency; CFIA official recognition of the animal health status of

the country of origin; end use of the commodity; length of stay and purpose of the animal being imported; detailed nature of any processing of the commodity; OIE and other internationally recognized standards, guidelines, and recommendations; OIE disease information and recognition of the animal health status of the country of origin; and results of risk assessments (where applicable).

Our import and export consultation process is daily and both formal and informal; We use emails, letterhead, phone calls, and face to face meetings to help move things forward. Internal CFIA Consultations occur within TAHD, and Outside TAHD but still CFIA with the following sections and divisions or directorates (as applicable by animal or commodity):

- Export or Import Section
- Foreign Animal Disease and Emergency Management
- Humane Transportation
- Epidemiology and Surveillance
- Meat Programs
- Animal Welfare at Slaughter
- Plant Protection
- Operations (field) Branch
- Science Branch
- Policy Branch
- International section of Policy

External (to CFIA) consultations carried out by Import & Export may take place with the following departments, organizations, and sectors (as applicable by animal or commodity):

- Health Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Agriculture and Agri Food Canada (AAFC)Market Access Secretariat (MAS)
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- Environment Canada
- CBSA
- Importers
- Exporters
- Relevant Canadian industry stakeholders
- Provincial authorities
- National associations
- Competent veterinary authority of other country
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Standards Council Canada
- Regional Opportunities Agency (i.e. Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency)
- Embassies (Canadian and other)
- Other government departments or agencies in Canada

Canadian Import Procedures and requirements for live animals, animal products and animal by-products Can be found on the CFIA website at of Terrestrial Animal Health Import Policies www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/pol/pole.shtml#prod. Import requirements can also be accessed by using the Automated Import Reference System (AIRS). CFIA-AIRS is the automated import reference system of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). It is a user-friendly, searchable database of CFIA import requirements. Through a series of questions and answers, the system will lead you through the applicable regulations and policies to information on all CFIA import requirements for specific commodities. www.inspection.gc.ca/english/imp/airse.shtml

CFIA attempts to further refine the process for establishing import conditions by using best practices & published science; published documents are considered a living document, and are reviewed periodically. For example both FPA and iELISA are considered acceptable test methodologies by CFIA for export to Canada for brucella testing in swine pre-export.

Import section TAHD CFIA foreign missions in 2010 and 2011 (completed and scheduled) included:

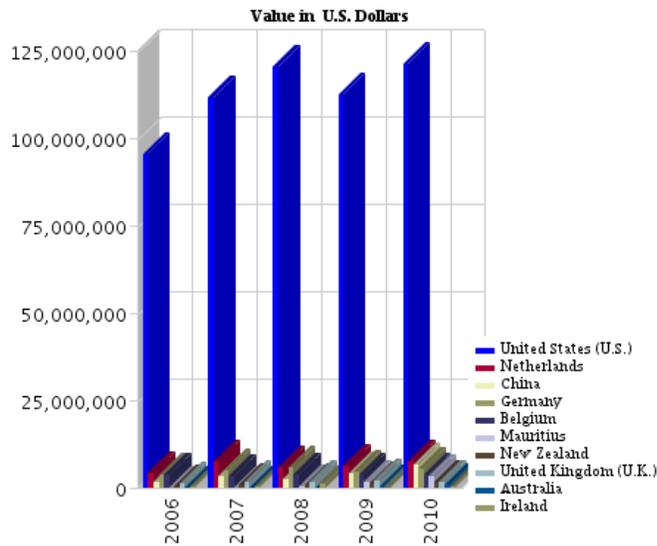
1. USA – ABP
2. Argentina – Beef
3. Disease Status Evaluations
 1. Japan
 2. Brazil

3. Colombia
4. Mexico/OIE meeting on international movement of horses
5. USA - ABP

Bilateral/Multilateral meetings which took place in 2010 and 2011 included:

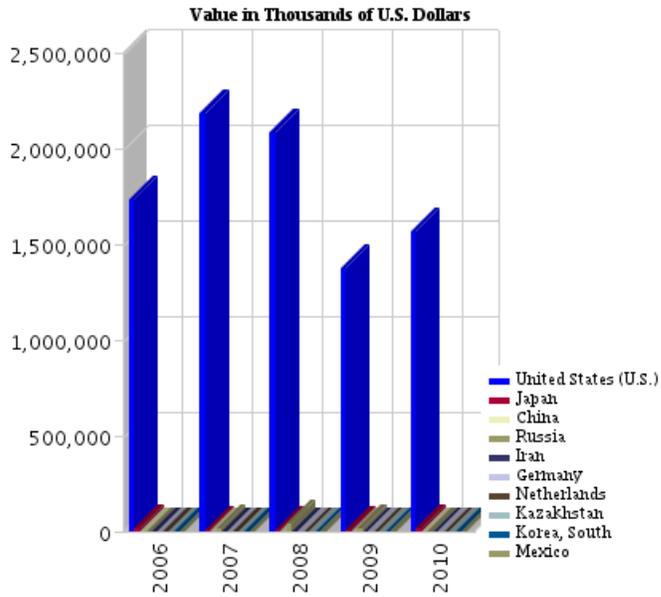
1. QUADS (annual)
2. Crossborder Meeting with USDA APHIS
3. USAHA (annual)
4. EU export training
5. Brussels/Poland – JMC & Compartmentalization

Canadian Imports top 10 countries for the latest 5 years of horses, asses, mules and hinnies; bovine; swine; sheep & goats, poultry & turkeys; other live animals (including fishing bait) are visually represented in the graph below.



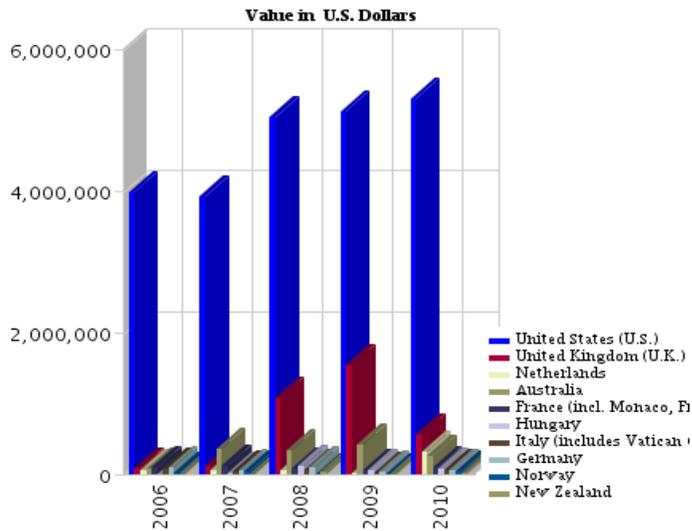
KavaChart images from VE.com

Canadian exports top 10 countries for the latest 5 years of horses, asses, mules and hinnies; bovine; swine; sheep & goats, poultry & turkeys; other live animals (including fishing bait) are visually represented in the graph below.



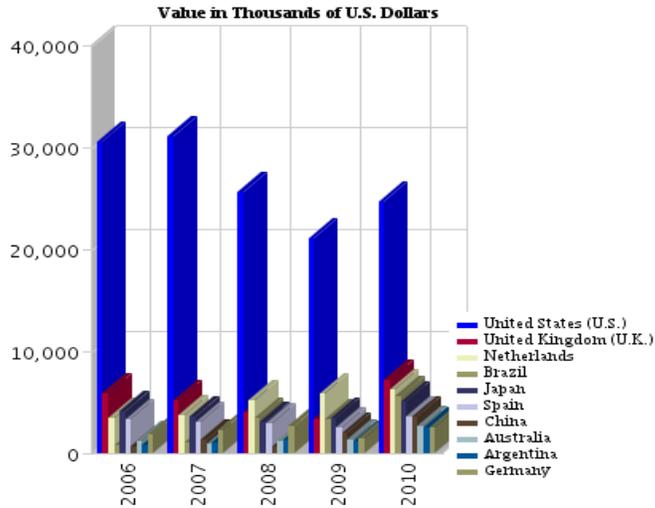
KavaChart images from VE.com

Imports to Canada of Bovine Semen the top 10 Countries for the latest 5 years is visually represented below



KavaChart images from VE.com

Exports from Canada of Bovine Semen the top 10 Countries for the latest 5 years is visually represented below



These charts, derived from Industry Canada's website on Trade and Investment, "Trade Data Online" http://www.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/tdst/tdo/tdo.php?lang=30&productType=HS6 are a clear demonstration that Canada and the USA are each others' biggest trading partners for animals, AP/ABP.

More detailed tabular **import export data from CFIA** (only as accurate as the data supplied by district offices) is provided below for calendar years 2009 through 2010.

Import Permits Issued	2009	2010	2011		
Commodity	# Permits	# Permits	No Data		
Pet Birds	45	37			
Poultry	44	38			
Day-old Chicks	45	26			
Bovines	751	610			
Equine	312	510			
Porcine	28	26			
Hatching Eggs					
Semen	956	798			
Embryos	120	101			
Others Ov-Cap	161	147			
Others (Primates)	32	24			
Other (Bees)	66	88			
Other (Dogs)	134	125			
Other		108			
Permit Category	Applications	Permits	Applications	Permits	Applications
	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011
Live Animals & Hatching Eggs	2694	2694	2638	1820	2056
Embryos	127	120	143	101	104
Semen	997	954	900	798	743
IMPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN YEAR 2009-2010-2011					
	2009	2010	2011		

Argentina			
Australia	19415	737	
Austria		110	
Czech Republic	700	3,000	
Denmark		160	
Dominican Republic	50		
France	800	23,044	
Germany	5,790		
Hungary	11,397		
Italy	1,400	9,415	
Netherlands	4,720	16,700	
Norway	1,450	2,000	
Spain	14,000	3,729	
Switzerland	3,700		
United Kingdom	36,834	4,050	
United States	675609	595511	

IMPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN YEAR 2009-2010-2011

	2009	2010	2011
Australia		196	
Germany	950	712	
Netherlands	1213		
Sweden	1		
United States	1828	1490	

IMPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN YEAR 2009-2010-2011

	2009	2010	2011
France	7,346	1006	
Netherlands	424		
United Kingdom		15	
United States	606	348	

IMPORT OF OVINE SEMEN YEAR 2009-2010-2011

	2009	2010	2011
Australia	200	200	
United Kingdom	122		

DAY OLD CHICKS IMPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011

	2009	2010	2011
France	2680	15436	32680
Germany			20720
Netherlands	29175		24080
United States	1130161	1378803	198653

HATCHING EGGS IMPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
United States	12,073,094	18,000,732	6937600

COMMERCIAL BIRDS IMPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011 *			
	2009	2010	2011
England		72	
Netherlands	399		327
New Zealand		2	
United States	3868	252	227

OTHER POULTRY IMPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
England	2111	4222	
France	4842	11143	3431
Germany	2111	4621	5230
Morocco	2		
Netherlands	99	65	221
Switzerland	4		
United States	16723996	19274726	12192465

PET BIRD IMPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Australia	0	4	0
Belgium	1		1
Colombia	2		
England	3	3	
Finland	2		
France	6		
Germany		1	
Jamaica	1		
Japan	1	2	
Morocco	6		
Netherlands	28	1	
New Zealand	1		
Philippines	1		
Qatar		3	
Scotland	1		
South Africa	4		1
Trinidad & Tobago	1		
United Arab Emirates	1		
United States	21	11	1

DAY OLD CHICK EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Algeria	77104	20000	
Chile	7542	12817	2514
Colombia	137996	39065	
Costa Rica	36554	21704	23630
England		5901	
European Community	105456	150163	
France	10811		
Guatemala	37432	58881	50069
Hawaii	66000	58000	70200
Honduras	47816	33503	
Japan	119851	54425	43964
Mexico		11916	12400
Netherlands	96350	101496	
Panama	35550	35800	
Philippines	86392	139176	28296
Taiwan	77142	46194	
Tunisia	7232		
Uruguay	30697	11344	8648
United States	3411068	5311791	3048378

COMMERCIAL BIRD EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Japan	3		
Taiwan	8		8
Trinidad & Tobago		32	
United Arab Emirates	1		
United States	789	57	125

HATCHING EGGS EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Armenia		4000	
Austria	909000	531000	142000
Barbados		22400	
Belgium	26400		
Brazil	182200	38000	18360
Chile	468200	275900	265300
Costa Rica	30960	52200	54000
Croatia	359400	610200	289600
European Community	17000		
France	464400	74380	193600
Germany	3175360	4320140	1598460
Guatemala	9276		
Hungary	26000		
Kazakhstan		67800	211200
Mexico		2520	
Netherlands	405500	280300	138120

New Zealand	7200	15120	
Pakistan			40
Poland	2050200	1932400	1319800
Portugal	28000		
Russia	1577000	2452800	896800
St Vincent		2880	
Switzerland	32400	128200	71800
Trinidad & Tobago		6000	6000
Turkey	1594400	3645400	1847400
Uruguay	27360		
United States	16095705	24197487	18742002
West Indies		43600	50000

OTHER POULTRY EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Algeria		9520	9820
Bahrain	64	20	
Barbados	6	39	
Belarus	5200		
Chile	23400		
Colombia			872
Egypt			2600
European Community	7232		
France	23672	16440	9500
Germany	6780		
Guatemala		29280	
Hawaii		31000	
Hungary			1560
Iran	51550		
Israel	9468		
Japan		80	
Mexico			6120
Morocco	20204	7572	6864
Netherlands	123789	47410	2600
Pakistan	122		
Philippines	2		
Poland		19500	
Qatar		13	
South Africa	102	66	68
Switzerland	3500		
Taiwan	1050	1050	
Trinidad & Tobago	42	45	8100
Tunisia	90755	13220	
United States	8618690	11327228	7198543
West Indies			2500

PET BIRD EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Bahamas	1		
Curacao	1		
England		2	
European Community	1	4	1
France	1	2	
Germany	5	5	
Greece	1	1	
Iran	1	1	
Israel	1	1	
Japan	2		
Mexico		1	
Panama		1	
Poland			1
Qatar		1	
United Arab Emirates		3	
United Kingdom		1	2
United States	5	3	1
Venezuela	2		

Country	Export Horses				Import Horses		
	2009	2010	2011		2009	2010	2011
Afghanistan		1					
Argentina	1	1				3	1
Armenia					1		
Austria		2					
Bahamas	3	1					
Belarus		2	1				
Belgium	34	59	1		53	90	4
Colombia	1		1			4	
Cuba		5					
Czech Republic	1				1		
England	13	25	7		5	6	29
Finland	1						
France	50	58	17			4	
Germany	20	36	6		135	24	6
Great Britain		3					

Hong Kong		3					
Iceland		1					
India	15	3			1	1	1
Ireland	3	12			2	4	2
Israel	1	2					
Italy	24	12					
Japan	2075	4024	1156				
Jordan			1				
Korea	16						
Luxembourg			1		3		
Macau (Macao)		3					
Martinique						4	1
Mexico	8	2	2		47	124	
Monaco	13	3				141	31
Montserrat					26		
Netherlands	2	23	1		6	21	20
New Guinea						2	1
Northern Ireland	2					1	
Norway		15	8				
Pakistan						1	
Poland	3	1			3		
Puerto Rico	1	7					
Scotland	4	4					
South Africa		28	26				
South & North Korea					1		
Spain	5						
Swaziland		3					
Sweden	22	2010				1	
Switzerland	3	18	6		3	1	
Uganda	1					1	
United Arab Emirates	12	17					

United Kingdom	20	17	1		16		
United States	20195	25301	9918		76847	74278	17372
Virgin Islands		1			1		
Wales	3	2	1		1	1	

BOVINE SEMEN EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Argentina	19,079	137,464	8,201
Australia	148,117	446,695	105,633
Austria	1,000	14,211	1,100
Bangladesh		2,500	7,200
Belarus	136,317	174,591	87,710
Belgium	1,570	4,100	
Bolivia	8,100	2,900	350
Brazil	304,913	1,571,748	281,423
Bulgaria	8,400		1,000
Cameroon	300		
Chile	60,778	98,491	49,902
China	71,000	514,838	270,865
Colombia	137,037	150,237	90,946
Costa Rica	23,533	16,091	14,556
Croatia	2,400	2360	4,390
Cyprus	3,020	8300	1,400
Czech Republic	722	6,234	450
Denmark	570	740	
Dominican Republic	4,380	4,880	
Ecuador	21,980	58961	
Egypt	24,959	25,145	12,415
El Salvador	1,450	8,101	7,278
European Community		20,879	
Finland		6,694	703
France	11,392	47,856	3,045
Germany	55,926	227,961	2,381
Guatamala	2,850	2,260	330
Guyana	1,800	3,150	
Honduras	3,563	3,847	5,840
Hungary	2,745	17,166	500
India			12,002
Indonesia		1,200	
Iran	58,203	242,228	117,700
Israel	2,100	5,850	
Italy	8,850	38,579	3,130
Japan	138,141	269,135	117,278
Jordan	14,410	19,900	20,300
Kazakhstan	16,500	8,910	

Kenya	46,495	41,465	20,450
Korea	61,351	99,345	25,813
Lithuania		1,800	
Lebanon	7,000	3,200	
Malaysia	1,928		
Mexico	298,496	395,635	186,508
Morocco	16,697	34,221	3,400
Namibia	500		
Netherlands	179,462	634,166	78,905
New Zealand	31,430	18,899	7,892
Nicaragua	2,911	2,370	
Nigeria	3,350		
Norway	200	170	465
Oman	400	2,200	4,600
Pakistan	3,565	11,953	3,439
Panama	1,590	3,130	1,200
Paraguay	10,087	14,370	9,904
Peru	13,340	63,200	9,892
Poland	429	40,404	450
Portugal	1,570	5,263	240
Puerto Rico	1,260		6,620
Qatar	1,600		
Romania	602	1,004	
Rwanda		5,500	
Russia	16,530	26,110	
Saudi Arabia	95,545	123,431	28,540
Serbia & Montenegro	9,696		
Slovakia		255	
South Africa	134,390	101,607	63,028
Spain	33,465	105,427	1,830
Sri Lanka		500	
Sudan	5,000	13,600	5,020
Sweden	1,742	2,177	
Switzerland	27,569	37,450	7,260
Syria	9,196		
Taiwan	35,598	56,309	43,608
Thailand	970	5,588	
Tunisia		24,585	
Turkey	286,906	483,964	427,289
Uganda	400	450	
Ukraine	124,001	164,669	84,450
United Arab Emirates	23,330	11,575	8,364
United Kingdom	46,024	168,534	119,156
United States	2746980	4727919	1,313,639
Uruguay	10,124	76,062	21,733
Venezuela		650	1,250
Vietnam	17,254	7,600	8,000
Zambia			4,905

Zimbabwe	1,590	348	2,510
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PORCINE SEMEN EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Brazil	3,905		7,828
Chile	1,745		
China		13,066	12,700
Colombia		7,224	1,224
Costa Rica			1,240
Czech Republic	150	927	210
Ecuador		300	
France	599	48	66
Germany	162	1,301	486
Indonesia			1,060
Mexico		46	874
Morocco			
Netherlands		1,080	
Philippines	232	339	
South Africa		1,120	
Spain	798	266	1
United States	54,924	97503	59582
Vietnam			171

CAPRINE SEMEN EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
European Community		88	
Mexico	17		
United States		252	
CERVINE SEMEN EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Sweden		60	
United States	105	410	
EQUINE SEMEN EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Australia		229	
France	1,268		
Italy		300	366
Netherlands			121
New Zealand	449		
Sweden	4,055	4,016	1,789
OVINE SEMEN EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Mexico		400	614

Turkey		2,418	
United States		280	

EXPORT OF BOVINE EMBRYOS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Argentina	20	91	38
Australia	964	1,698	469
Austria			28
Belize	20		
Brazil	250	753	630
China	224	803	
Colombia	438	52	48
Costa Rica	2	10	
Cyprus	6		
Czech Republic	55	52	
Denmark	33		18
Dominican Republic	64		
European Community		168	
Finland	512	258	290
France	207	174	131
Germany	334	440	465
Guatamala		100	
Indonesia		5	
Italy	70	128	58
Japan	334	138	103
Korea	23	504	
Mexico	17	296	8
Netherlands	163	199	48
New Zealand	144	71	17
Norway		140	
Panama	100	19	
Portugal		28	
Rwanda		128	
Russia		199	
South Africa	11		
Spain	2,116	104	10
Swaziland	3		36
Sweden	1	35	22
Switzerland	69	173	32
Uganda		5	
United Kingdom	732	1,216	123
United States	410	1,358	313
Uruguay	111	100	
CERVINE EMBRYOS EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Sweden		51	
United States		93	

OVINE EMBRYOS EXPORTS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
India	276		
Mexico	16		

IMPORT OF BOVINE EMBRYO YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Argentina		113	
Australia	50	12	
France	45	14	
Netherlands	8		
New Zealand	608		
South Africa		45	
Switzerland		4	
United Kingdom	48	20	
United States	639	186	
IMPORT OF CAPRINE EMBRYOS YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Australia		50	
IMPORT OF OVINE EMBRYO YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
Australia	200		
IMPORT OF EQUINE EMBRYO YEAR 2009-2010-2011			
	2009	2010	2011
United States	10		

Summary – Communicating Across Species: Preparing For An FMD Outbreak
Presented by the FMD Cross-Species Communications Team
Cindy Cunningham, Assistant Vice President, Communications, National Pork Board

If a widespread Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak occurs in the United States, it will require a fast, unified and coordinated response from both livestock industry associations and the government. Prompted by the 2001 outbreak in the United Kingdom, the U.S. beef, pork, dairy and sheep industries recognized the need to prepare and take action, in case a similar situation were to arise in the country. As a result, the communications and issues management specialists from National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the National Pork Board (NPB), American Sheep Institute (ASI) and Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) have worked together to develop a coordinated communications response plan.

Consistent, Consumer-Friendly Messages

The variety of audiences who would need to be reached in the event of an outbreak is broad, stretching from domestic grocery shoppers to importers in numerous foreign countries. While a consistent plan for response across species is important, the plan will only be as successful as the strength of the message it distributes.

To develop a strong, well-tested set of core key messages, the FMD Cross-Species team conducted consumer research to better understand how consumers felt about perceived issues surrounding FMD. The research demonstrated consumers lack knowledge about FMD. In fact, when surveyed, 72 percent of consumers thought FMD affected humans. Another 69 percent of consumers believed they could contract FMD from eating infected meat. These findings alone demonstrated the numerous misconceptions that would need to quickly be addressed in the event of an outbreak.

Messaging research also helped identify words and spokespersons that resonated or did not resonate with audiences. For example, audiences want to hear "there is a plan" and hear about successful examples of managing a similar situation. Words that work include reassurances that FMD is not a human health risk and does not affect the safety of milk or meat. On the other hand, audiences do not want to hear about quarantines, roadblocks or euthanasia. Messages referencing the economic devastation or the desire for livestock producers to protect their livelihood are not as well accepted.

Based on these understandings, the FMD team created a set of core messages to serve as the foundation of all communications about the disease. The simplicity of the messages is part of their power, as they address the misconception that FMD affects people and reassure consumers that a plan is in place and people are working together to execute it.

Message Deliverers

The team's research also identified the types messengers who would best resonate with the public during outreach and education following an outbreak.

- **Industry spokespeople** are the most credible and reassuring when responses are consistent and provided by a variety of sources.
- **Livestock producers** are credible when speaking about the actions farmers take on the farm and how they cooperate with officials.
- **Local government officials** are more credible than federal agencies because they are connected to the community.
- **Veterinarians** are most credible for consumer health information about FMD.

Information in Action

With core messages and a baseline understanding about how to communicate during an outbreak, the FMD team continues to receive feedback and insights from various stakeholders to improve the plan and approach. Such planning and reliable partnerships will help position the industry to respond in a unified manner, ensure consumer confidence in meat and milk safety, alleviate confusion and concern and help protect animal health and the livestock industry.

Animal Health & Trade Possibilities in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean

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I retired from Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA early in 2007 after 30 years of service with the agency. A year later I began consulting with Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA in animal health and international trade for the Central America Free Trade Agreement-Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR).

In the last several months I have started consulting for the OIRSA, an International Regional Organization of Animal and Plant Health based in El Salvador. OIRSA has 9 member countries which comprises Mexico and all the Central American Countries down to Panama and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.

The objective was and is to help the Central American countries to meet VS, APHIS, USDA, OIE and other international sanitary standards in order to allow these countries to export animal products (poultry meat, pork, beef, bovine semen and embryos) to the United States and the rest of the world.

Mexico, Central America, and the Dominican Republic veterinary programs of disease eradication, veterinary infrastructure, veterinary diagnostic capabilities, animal disease surveillance systems, and other aspects of their national veterinary programs need to be upgraded and updated in order to meet international standards.

In order to export meat products to the United States a country needs to meet USA requirements on two fronts: animal health conditions required by VS, APHIS, USDA and Inspection regulations equivalence and other processing plant sanitary standards required by FSIS, USDA. If a country wants to export poultry meat into the USA, it needs to be free of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), as examples of animal health conditions. Another example would be for a country to be free of Classical Swine Fever (CSF), and African Swine Fever (ASF) before it can export pork products.

Their national meat inspection regulations and their processing plants sanitary standards must have been evaluated by the equivalence staff of FSIS, USDA and found to be "equivalent" to U.S. standards before the export can proceed.

The United States uses the process of "Regionalization" to determine if a country is free of a given disease. This process is detailed in title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9CFR), Part 92.2, and it uses 11 factors to evaluate a country for freedom of disease. Once a country is determined to be free of a given disease, it needs to be added to the 9CFR as to allow the importation of certain products into the United States.

The process of "Rulemaking," required by the Administrative Procedures Act and other executive orders is used to clear the new rule and be written into the 9CFR. This rulemaking process is also regulated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), if the proposed rule is deemed "significant" or higher. Also the new rule must undergo legal and policy review by the Office of the General Council (OGC). The "proposed rule" is published in the *Federal Register* for up to a sixty day comment. Finally, if it is cleared, then it is re-published in the *Federal Register* as a "Final Rule" and written into the 9CFR.

Both of these processes can take up to 6 years or longer to complete. That is one of the reasons I give the countries to be assisted the presentation covering both processes. I also give assisted countries a presentation about the "National Veterinary Accreditation Program of the United States" to meet the requirements of factor # 1 (country must have an adequate veterinary infrastructure) in 9CFR Part 92.2 cited above.

The country uses "Export Certificates" provided by FSIS, USDA to certify that the meat comes from animals that received ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection in approved plants, and that the meat has not been adulterated or mislabeled and is in sanitary conditions. This certificate must be signed and stamped by authorized officials of the exporting country. This certificate must be both in English and the language of the exporting country.

The most difficult and expensive part for the country which wants to export internationally is to meet the requirements imposed by the importing countries. A national animal health system capable of delivering disease-free, healthy animals and sanitary animal products to the world is a very complex and expensive system of interlocking parts. This system must be maintained and managed by highly educated, capable, and experienced professional personnel. Most of these countries are lacking in both, the system and the personnel.