

Report of the Committee on Import-Export
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The Committee met on October 25 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island from 12:30 to 4:00. There were 19 members and 26 guests present. Response to three resolutions that were passed out of the committee last year was reviewed, and a decision to revisit one of the resolutions during the discussion period was raised.

Presentation and Reports

Tracey Butler, USDA – Import of animal products and by products.

- Some shell eggs from HPAI and END regions are allowed following pasteurization. US experienced a shortage of shell eggs following this summer's HPAI outbreak in US, and USDA allowed shell egg imports from those establishments already approved by FSIS to import liquid eggs. Mexico is only HPAI country importing shell eggs into the US. No whole eggs are being imported at this time.
- Bovine risk assessment of risk to US cattle health from importation of bovine fetal serum, bovine serum and bovine serum albumin. Risk assessment will allow protocol development for safe importation. Hazard analysis and pathways assessment is complete – finished risk assessment expected to be completed by January 31, 2016. Communication with the industry is ongoing on questions needed to complete the RA.
- Automated Cargo Environment (ACE/ITDS) goal to create a single electronic window where required trade documents can be submitted to CBP. Due to be completed and become the single window for trade by end of 2016. Working on pilots with pet food, beef and pork from Canada.
- RegFlex – transparent way APHIS is able to exempt from enforcement parts of the regulations that no longer pose a risk without going through rulemaking. E.g. lactose from New Zealand. Allowing eCertification with Australia and New Zealand.
- CARPOL – eFile system that will communicate with ACE

The complete text of this presentation is included at the end of this report

Joyce Bowling-Heyward, USDA – Import of Live Animals

- All information on ACE presented by Dr. Butler also applies to live animals
- Export – training courses on regular basis, some courses delayed or canceled due to HPAI.

- Export negotiations –
- Discussions with Canada and Mexico on digital signature and electronic certification.
 - Trying to expand trade since US is negligible for BSE.
 - Support of poultry following HPAI outbreak. Facilitation of export of chicks that transit through HPAI regions prior to export. Negotiated 34 new export protocols, maintained protocols for 43 markets and expanded markets for 29 markets.
 - New project on Pet Export facilitation, improving access to requirements. Working on Veterinary
 - Export Health Certificate System – working on a globally standardized certificate, including electronic processes. Working on pilot project with Canada, and also slaughter horses to Mexico. First step with other countries may be the acceptance of digital signatures.
- Import of Animals –
 - Construction of contingency inspection facilities at various Mexican facilities, and upgrades to others
 - Made changes to Import Tracking System (VSPS) to scan RFID or bar codes tags and capture to import database. Piloting this program at the Mexican border. Standardizing collection of equine ID from microchipped, tattooed and registered horses.
 - Improved the CEM database to track horses that are required to complete CEM quarantine. Have completed a CEM report for 2014-2015 using data submitted by the state coordinators.
 - All of APHIS working on new permitting system, hope to be completed by end 2016.
 - Import summaries demonstrate an increase in most import categories.

Bob Bokma, USDA – Export of Animal Products

- NIES focus on animal products for human consumption, animal feeding, industrial, medical and pharmaceutical uses. Intent is for one certificate to be sufficient.
- Facilitate exports – negotiate protocols with trading partners. Meat and other audits, certificate language and consultations. BSE reclassification negotiations to expand markets.
- Manufacturing plant and other inspections done by district office/service centers and maintained in the data base. Keep information on over 1000 facilities in the data base. EU is biggest area for which inspections are maintained.
- HPAI closed or reduced exports to a number of countries. Managed bans, certificate limitation and voluntary export restrictions. E.g. control zone vs county vs state vs country. Working to remove restrictions or bans. Entered agreements with Canada and Japan, working to refine them with the counterpart.
- BSE – goal to open more markets for bovine and non-bovine ingredients for various trading partners. E.g. Canada, Chile, China, Korea, Macao, Mexico and Peru.
- Pork products. Goal to remove restrictions related to Trichinae. Finalized with Peru. Negotiating on PRRS, PMWS, and PEDV concerns.

Liz Wagstrom, National Pork Producers Council – African Swine Fever Control in Eastern Europe

- Overview of the situation in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
 - EC regulations and zoning are rigorous, and the countries are conforming to the EC regulations and adding some country specific additional restrictions.
 - Surveillance, animal identification and tracking, meat inspection, wild boar hunting and depopulation/indemnity are laid out in these regulations.
 - State and federal veterinarians are auditing and enforcing them.
 - Wild boar populations will likely prevent these countries

Committee Business:

The Committee discussed the resolution on a national strategy for Blue Tongue surveillance that was passed by the committee and the USAHA Board of Directors last year and suggested a change to the resolution. It was passed as a new resolution out of the committee.

Addendums:

NATIONAL IMPORT EXPORT SERVICES (NIES)
Import Products/By-products
FY 2015 Activities

Presented by Tracye (Butler) Hernandez-Bynum

Import Animal Products

National Import Export Services (NIES) continues its mission to facilitate safe international trade of animal products and by-products, regulate the importation of animal products and by-products, prevent the introduction of dangerous and costly pests and diseases, promulgate animal product import regulations and policies, collaborate with other government agencies and issue import permits. During FY15, NIES Import Products staff issued a total of 9354 permits for animal products. Of the total permits issued, 2546 represents new permits, 5127 are renewals of expired permits and 1681 are amendments to existing permits. The total number of permit issued in FY15 is a significant increase over previous years, possibly due to increased trade as a result of finalization of the BSE Comprehensive rule.

NIES approval of Egg Breaking/Pasteurization Facilities

The USDA, APHIS Approved Establishment (AE) program allows consignment of restricted animal products to facilities in located the United States for processing to mitigate against diseases of concern. The majority of AEs are taxidermy facilities which receive trophies. However some AEs import shell eggs from HPAI (and/or ND) regions for breaking and pasteurization

As a result of the HPAI outbreak in the United States, millions of laying hens were depopulated. This resulted the United States experiencing a shortage of shell eggs. Therefore, interest in APHIS approved shell egg facilities increased and NIES responded. Normally, to become an AE, APHIS requires inspection by Veterinary Services field personnel. However, in response to the shell egg shortage, NIES added to the approved database, those stand-alone egg breaking/pasteurization facilities that are FSIS approved. Addition to APHIS'AE database is upon request and submission of establishment name, address, FSIS establishment number, and representative contact name and telephone number. Currently, Mexico is the only HPAI country from which shell eggs are being imported. Most of the pasteurized egg products are sold to the baking industry.

Additional information regarding the importation of table eggs from HPAI regions can be found on our website at:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/downloads/importer_letter_shell_eggs.pdf

Bovine Serum Risk Assessment

In response to finalization of the BSE Comprehensive rule, the import regulations codified in the Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations, now allow for the importation of bovine serum from regions of Controlled risk for BSE (in addition to Negligible risk regions). There is a lot of interest in importing commercial quantities of FBS, especially from Europe. A risk assessment (RA) was initiated to help APHIS develop a protocol by which bovine serum products may be imported safely.

The RA objectives are:

- Assess the risk to U.S. livestock health through the importation of bovine serum, fetal bovine serum, and bovine serum albumin into the United States
- Evaluate the change in risk that would result from the use of risk-mitigation measures available to VS

The RA scope will consider foreign animal disease risks of significant concern posed by importation of the following types of serum into the United States from any country:

- Fetal bovine serum (FBS)
- Newborn calf serum (NCS)
- Calf serum (CS)
- Adult bovine serum (ABS) (from slaughtered animals 12 months and older)
- Donor bovine serum (DBS)
- Bovine serum albumin (BSA)

Additionally, the RA will consider potential pathways of introduction for the following hazards of concern:

- Food-and-mouth Disease (FMD) – for countries that are free but still vaccinate
- Bluetongue Virus (BTV)
- Schmallenberg Virus (SBV)
- Akabane Virus (AKAV)
- Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVD)-3
- Bovine Ephemeral Fever Virus (BEFV)
- RA will identify and evaluate mitigations available to VS to reduce the risk posed by the importation of bovine serum, fetal bovine serum, and bovine serum albumin.

Current status of the RA:

- The RA is delayed approximately 4 months due to APHIS HPAI response.
- The hazard identification and pathways development is complete
- Current focus is on evaluating risk along entry and exposure pathways for each serum type-pathogen combination
- Developed a list of questions and discussion topics for serum industry representatives to help to fill in information gaps
- Draft RA expected to be delivered to NIES no later than January 31, 2016

Automated Cargo Environment International Trade Data System (ACE/ITDS)

ACE is the result of a Presidential Executive Order to streamline the government's import/export processes. The goal of ACE is to create a single, electronic window where companies and customs brokers can submit required trade documents to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP is leading the effort by building and maintaining the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). By the end of 2016, ACE will become the "Single Window" or primary system for trade.

Through ACE many manual processes will be streamlined and automated, and the international trade community will be able to more easily and efficiently comply with import requirements of APHIS and other regulatory government agencies. Brokers will be required to enter trade information into ACE, so industry will have to make sure all the required import information is given to the broker. If individuals act as their own broker then they must be ACE certified by CBP.

There are 3 ways information gets into ACE. The first is through the "Message Set" which is all via data entry (electronic). The second way is via the "Document Imaging System" which are PDFs of all documents. The third way is by standard collection of paper documents.

To learn more about ITDS and the Single Window for Trade, please visit: <http://www.itds.gov>
ACE/ITDS questions from trade can be sent to: ace.itds@aphis.usda.gov

ACE information can also be found on the APHIS homepage at: www.aphis.usda.gov

RegFlex Program

RegFlex is a transparent way that APHIS is able to exempt from enforcement, parts of the regulations that no longer pose a risk, without promulgating rule making. We are currently using RegFlex to address:

- Lactose, and
- eCertification with Australia and New Zealand for meat imports.

Lactose is specifically addressed in our regulations. However a risk assessment indicated that lactose is not a risk. Therefore, we are using RegFlex to de-regulate lactose without having undergo formal rule making.

Since USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service has an electronic data exchange system in place, APHIS is exempting from enforcement the requirement that "official signed veterinary certificates" accompany shipments of meat from Australia and New Zealand. APHIS is allowing the use of eCertification in lieu of the paper veterinary certificate. In addition, eCertification fits the goals established within ACE's data set information gathering.

CARPOL

CARPOL is the Agency wide information technology system. It will be a one stop shopping for numerous APHIS activities and is also referred to as "eFile." The CARPOL/eFile system will communicate with ACE. CARPOL activities (and acronym) refer to:

Certificates
Accreditations
Registrations
Permits, and
Other
Licenses

APHIS is currently working on the "Permitting" piece in CARPOL.

OTHER NOTES: