



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

JAN 16 2020

Dr. Marty Zaluski
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Zaluski:

Thank you for your December 9, 2019 letter to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the copy of the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) 2019 Resolution 20 concerning Foreign Animal Disease Prevention. We greatly appreciate and share your concern of protecting the United States from foreign animal diseases (FAD). At CBP, we take our agriculture mission very seriously and we remain vigilant in preventing FAD from entering the country, as we are very cognizant of the risks that their introduction would pose to domestic animal health.

CBP employs a multi-layered approach to screening passengers, pedestrians, and commercial cargo entering the country. All agricultural items are subject to inspection, including food. At U.S. ports of entry (POE), CBP Officers, CBP Agriculture Specialists, and Agriculture Canine teams work together identifying high-risk travelers and cargo, while taking appropriate actions to; detect and confiscate prohibited items; clean shoes of travelers who declare they have been on a farm; and dispose of quarantine materials intercepted and foreign regulated garbage according to quarantine regulations.

POE frontline efforts are supplemented by initiatives and oversight at the national level. Field personnel have been educated about FAD risks, outbreaks, and CBP's FAD prevention strategy through a series of musters and memos. CBP also conducts advanced targeting of high-risk travelers and commercial cargo originating from countries with are conducted in concert with the CBP National Targeting Center to ensure that they are inspected upon arrival. Additionally, informational alerts on pertinent outbreaks worldwide, such as African Swine Fever, and operational guidance are provided in a timely fashion to CBP personnel for situational awareness, as it is received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). CBP's Office of Field Operations, Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaisons Directorate continues to work closely with APHIS to identify risks and implement necessary safeguards for FAD prevention.

Regarding the specific requests outlined in USAHA's Resolution 20:

- 1.) CBP commits to supporting reoccurring metrics relative to FAD interdiction efforts at the POE to impacted stakeholders. CBP is very diligent in the area of data collection

that captures approaching risk via the regulatory pathways as well as the work performed by frontline employees, which is varied in both breadth of scope and level of granularity. We believe that it would be beneficial to collaborate with USAHA to determine the type and detail of specific measurements that can be provided to best address concerns. However, please note that there may be limitations to some of the information that can be provided.

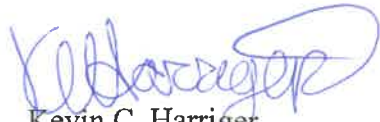
- 2.) CBP is open to working with the foot-and-mouth (FMD) Cross-Species Team to develop educational and outreach efforts, particularly those focused on the importance of truthfulness in passenger declarations and FAD education. Preventing the introduction of FAD is a monumental task and CBP recognizes the importance of public stakeholder and industry partnerships to assist with our agriculture safeguarding measures. Currently, CBP educates the public about FAD and other diseases and pest of agricultural concern and their potential impact to the U.S. agriculture and economy through signage posted at U.S. POEs and educational materials posted on CBP's public website (www.cbp.gov). CBP encourages the public to declare plant and animal products that they are bringing with them into the United States and notify CBP personnel that they have been to a farm or had contact with animals when traveling or residing abroad. CBP also conducts outreach to the research community in the academia, private industries, and trade to ensure that importation of biological cultures, research specimens, and animal products comply with USDA regulations. We look forward to working with the FMD Cross-Species Team on the expansion of these efforts.
- 3.) In line with modernization and paperwork reduction efforts, CBP has begun the process of transforming the traditional paper passenger declaration form to a completely electronic format, available via kiosks at POEs and a mobile application for use at selected locations. The electronic passenger declaration formats do incorporate areas of potential agriculture concerns, including FAD. The declaration is supplemented by the diligent enforcement efforts of frontline personnel via interactive dialogue with the traveling public that is informed by the aforementioned musters, memoranda, and alerts addressing risk. CBP looks forward to engaging in dialogue with USAHA on the areas addressed in the passenger declaration process and any potential changes that may serve to better mitigate specific concerns.

Thank you for your letter to CBP and the opportunity to review USAHA Resolution 20 for 2019. CBP will continue to prioritize our CBP agriculture quarantine inspections to continue our foreign animal disease exclusion efforts and maintain our agriculture safeguarding measures. We will always work with USDA and U.S. agriculture industries to protect America's agriculture and natural resources. In furtherance of this commitment, CBP strongly encourages that USDA APHIS be integrated into the collaborative efforts between CBP and USAHA. USDA APHIS is the United States's lead animal health regulatory agency and promulgates rules, federal regulations, and policies that support the exclusion and prevention of FAD within the United States.

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Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 344-1644.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Harriger", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin C. Harriger
Executive Director,
Agriculture Program and Trade Liaisons