

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737–1232 • Voice (301) 743–7799 • Web: <u>http://www.aphis.usda.gov</u>

USDA REMOVES PANAMA FROM LISTS OF REGIONS WHERE SCREWWORM IS CONSIDERED TO EXIST

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is advising the public that we are amending the regulations regarding the importation of live horses, ruminants, swine and dogs by removing Panama from the lists of regions where screwworm is considered to exist. We are taking this action because the eradication of screwworm from Panama has been confirmed. This action will relieve certain screwworm-related certification and inspection requirements for live animals imported into the United States from Panama.

This final rule is scheduled for publication in the Aug. 29 *Federal Register* and becomes effective Sept. 29.

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Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at http://www.aphis.usda.gov and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Cindy Ragin at (301) 734-7280 or by e-mail at cindy.n.ragin@aphis.usda.gov.