

Veterinary Services (VS) Atlas Spatial Data Library

Written by Ryan Miller, CEAH GIS

The Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) geographic information systems (GIS) staff is pleased to announce that the VS Atlas Spatial Data Library and VS Atlas Extension for ArcGIS software are now available to Animal Health and Plant Inspection Services (APHIS) Staff. The VS Atlas is a geographic data library that serves the VS mission of providing a mechanism to distribute spatial data in a standard, easy-to-use format. A key purpose of the VS Atlas is to provide frequently needed geographic data layers that have been processed for immediate use in maps and for spatial analyses. The VS Atlas Extension is a custom tool that works within Environmental Systems Research Institute’s (ESRI) ArcCatalog and ArcMap software included in ArcGIS. The VS Atlas Extension connects users directly to the spatial data library and allows them to preview and download spatial data directly from the VS Atlas Library. A web version of VS Atlas is currently in production and is expected to be finalized this fall. It is anticipated that rapid access to preformatted data will simplify common spatial tasks related to surveillance, epidemiologic investigations, environmental analyses, and emergency response activities.

The VS Atlas contains the following data:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Census of Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agricultural Statistics Service ● Animal Diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current program disease status in the Generic Database ● Base Layers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical features • Transportation systems • Political features • Basic cartographic data ● Disease Vectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquitoes, ticks, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Surveillance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VS surveillance grid • Other disease-specific grids ● Veterinary Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VS and industry infrastructure (slaughter & rendering plants, truck washes, office locations, etc.) ● Wildlife / Insect Ranges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 169 families; 7,000+ species • Exotic and invasive species • Arthropod distributions
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These datasets are obtained through free distribution, agreements, and collaborations with Federal agencies, State agencies, and private organizations. The data are reviewed for quality, content, and accuracy before they are included in the VS Atlas. It is important to note that the VS Atlas Library and ArcGIS extension can only be accessed by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service staff and are intended for internal use. However, CEAH-GIS staff members would be pleased to discuss the methods used to create VS Atlas, which could be used to apply this concept within State offices. The VS Atlas extension, install guide, and related documents are available at:

http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/gis/vs/vs_atlas_home.htm.

For more information concerning the VS Atlas Spatial Data Library, contact Jerry Freier at 970.494.7275 or via email at Jerome.E.Freier@aphis.usda.gov.