

## Notice to Arriving Student Travelers: Help Protect Agricultural and Natural Resources

It takes only one piece of infested fruit or diseased meat carried into the United States by an unsuspecting traveler to introduce harmful pests or diseases such as Mediterranean fruit fly or foot-and-mouth disease. Please be aware that many agricultural products are prohibited from entering this country. The reason—they can harbor pests and diseases that could devastate U.S. crops, livestock, pets, and the environment. Failure to declare prohibited items could result in long delays, fines, and confiscation of the items. It's easy to assure a hassle-free travel experience; just declare all agricultural products and leave prohibited products behind. For more information, check the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

It is also important to remember that there are restrictions on agricultural items sent through the mail. Be careful in requesting packages from home and inform friends and family to check before sending agricultural items. The APHIS Web site provides more information.

APHIS, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is an action-oriented agency that works with the workforce of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Border and Transportation Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, other Federal agencies, Congress, the States, agricultural interests, and the general public to carry out its mission to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources.

APHIS' mission is an integral part of USDA's efforts to provide the Nation with safe and affordable food. Without APHIS protecting America's animal and plant resources from agricultural pests and diseases, threats to our food supply and to our Nation's economy would be enormous. Plant and animal pest and disease threats could cost billions of dollars in lost domestic and international markets annually, as well as have a huge impact on U.S. consumers. APHIS has aggressively worked to prevent and respond to these situations with great success.

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