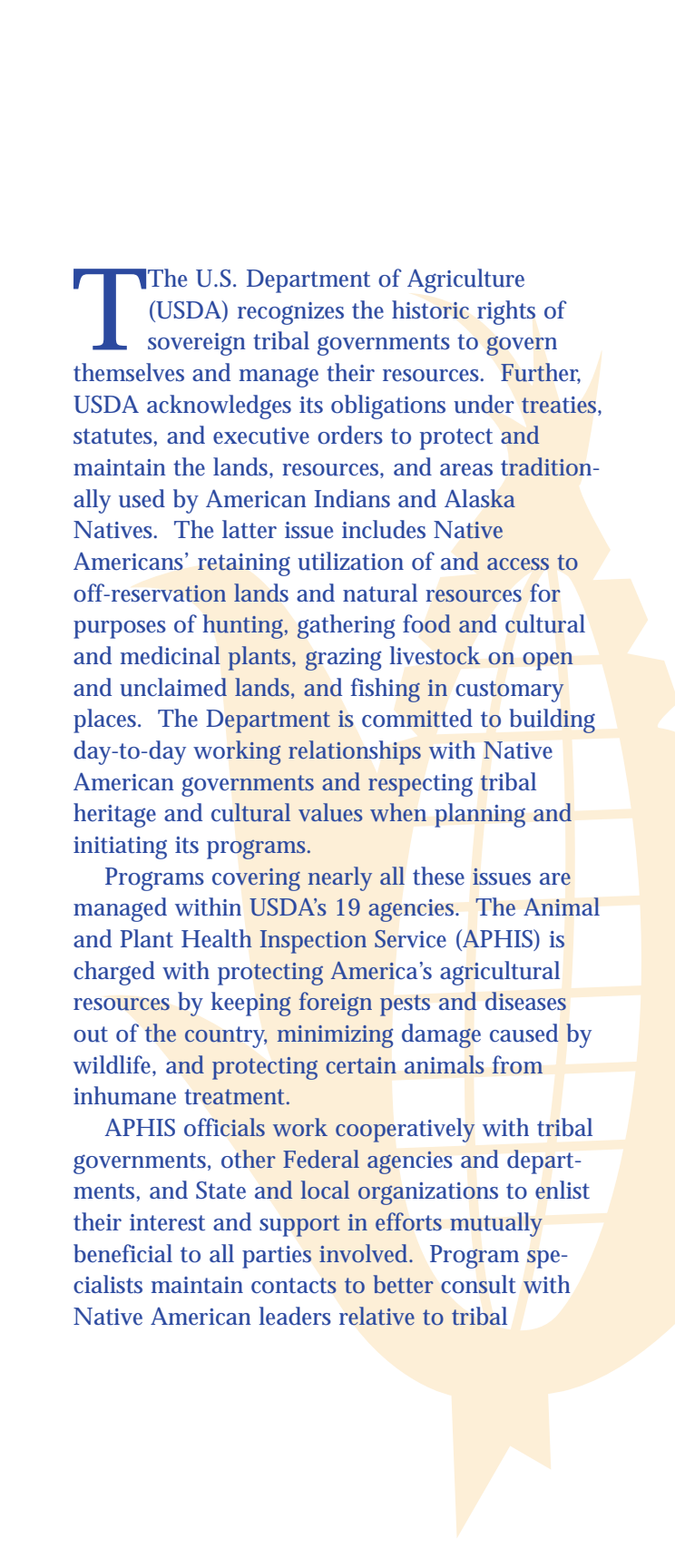


Partnerships Across Nations



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the historic rights of sovereign tribal governments to govern themselves and manage their resources. Further, USDA acknowledges its obligations under treaties, statutes, and executive orders to protect and maintain the lands, resources, and areas traditionally used by American Indians and Alaska Natives. The latter issue includes Native Americans' retaining utilization of and access to off-reservation lands and natural resources for purposes of hunting, gathering food and cultural and medicinal plants, grazing livestock on open and unclaimed lands, and fishing in customary places. The Department is committed to building day-to-day working relationships with Native American governments and respecting tribal heritage and cultural values when planning and initiating its programs.

Programs covering nearly all these issues are managed within USDA's 19 agencies. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is charged with protecting America's agricultural resources by keeping foreign pests and diseases out of the country, minimizing damage caused by wildlife, and protecting certain animals from inhumane treatment.

APHIS officials work cooperatively with tribal governments, other Federal agencies and departments, and State and local organizations to enlist their interest and support in efforts mutually beneficial to all parties involved. Program specialists maintain contacts to better consult with Native American leaders relative to tribal

concerns and issues. Managers and program coordinators within the agency consider the impact of agency decisions on tribes and consult with tribal governments to ensure that tribal rights, issues, and concerns are factored in during rulemaking and the development of projects, programs, and policies.

APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG)

In April 1994, the President directed all Federal agencies to improve program delivery to Native Americans in the federally recognized tribes—some 600 tribes as of September 2003. APHIS responded to this directive by establishing the ANAWG, which is made up of representatives from all APHIS program areas. The group advises the agency's top management about ways to enhance program delivery and accessibility to tribes, intertribal committees, and related organizations, such as the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, and the Intertribal Bison Cooperative. The ANAWG also facilitates the coordination of active partnerships with tribal governments by providing assistance and advice to the various agency program areas.

The ANAWG functions under the direction of the leader of APHIS, the agency's Administrator. The Administrator retains authority for establishing agency policy relating to all APHIS activities and programs of interest to Native Americans.

APHIS Program Areas

APHIS promotes the health of animal and plant resources; protects agricultural and natural resources, property, and human health and safety; promotes animal welfare; protects and enhances ecosystems; and works to maximize America's share in world agricultural trade. Fair and safe agricultural trade standards and practices are ensured through APHIS' cooperation with customers and stakeholders. APHIS also develops biologically sound pest- and disease-exclusion programs and promotes international standards and globally recognized certification systems, ensuring an abundance of agricultural commodities for U.S. consumers.

APHIS maintains a highly motivated and capable team of diverse individuals who share leadership within an agency community that cares about the professional and personal lives of others. Through shared leadership, APHIS anticipates and responds to issues involving

- animal and plant health,
- wildlife damage,
- global economics,
- environmental protection, and
- animal care and welfare.

Animal and Plant Health

APHIS specialists provide technical assistance to State and local governments in plant and animal pest- and disease-control programs. APHIS veterinarians administer national programs to protect U.S. livestock and poultry resources and provide technical assistance and vital support to

State and local cooperators to eradicate and control livestock and poultry pests and diseases. APHIS specialists also conduct surveillance and detection programs to further safeguard the Nation's agricultural resources. In support of all field programs, APHIS scientists conduct methods-development and research activities.

Wildlife Damage

APHIS provides programs to help alleviate or minimize wildlife-caused damage to agricultural and natural resources nationwide. Program goals include reducing wildlife damage, protecting threatened or endangered wildlife from predation, and minimizing the threats wild animals pose to human health and safety. APHIS animal damage control personnel remove wild animals that prey on livestock, discourage birds from living near U.S. airports, and investigate ways science can help manage wildlife damage problems, such as through vaccination against disease and immunocontraception for population management.

Global Economics

APHIS works closely with other countries to facilitate agricultural trade. To accomplish this, we incorporate international standards and marketing concerns in our domestic agricultural programs. To reduce the threat of pests and diseases from overseas, APHIS scientists seek international

cooperation and coordination to develop animal and plant pest- and disease-eradication programs abroad and find new solutions to pest and disease problems. We also serve stakeholders by providing assistance in preclearance of commodities in foreign countries before the items begin their journey to the United States.

Environmental Protection

APHIS employees ensure that agency programs comply with applicable environmental laws, regulate and license veterinary biological products, and issue permits for genetically engineered organisms. All employees are encouraged to exercise environmental responsibility and develop and implement systems based on environmentally sound decisionmaking. Our scientists analyze the potential effects of introducing genetically engineered organisms into the environment and issue permits to regulate the release and movement of these organisms. The aquaculture industry benefits from APHIS programs that regulate fish vaccines, prevent the introduction of aquatic pests and weeds, and prevent losses from fish-eating birds. APHIS promotes programs using biological control methods to limit damage to crops by plant pests and diseases while lessening the public's dependence on pesticides.

Animal Care and Welfare

APHIS enforces Federal regulations regarding animal care and welfare and investigates violations of all agency regulations, including animal welfare legislation. APHIS also administers animal protection legislation, including the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

The following lists tabulate some of APHIS' most prominent ongoing programs.

Animal and Plant Health Programs

- Cattle and swine brucellosis
- Bovine tuberculosis
- Pseudorabies in swine
- Scrapie in sheep and goats
- Import/Export of animals, plants, and products
- Gypsy moth, imported fire ant, sudden oak death, boll weevil, Asian longhorned beetle
- Integrated pest management
- Exotic fruit flies
- Phytosanitary certification for plants and plant products

Animal Care and Welfare

- Care of pets during transport
- Protection of gaited horses
- Inspection of animal dealers and research facilities

International Services

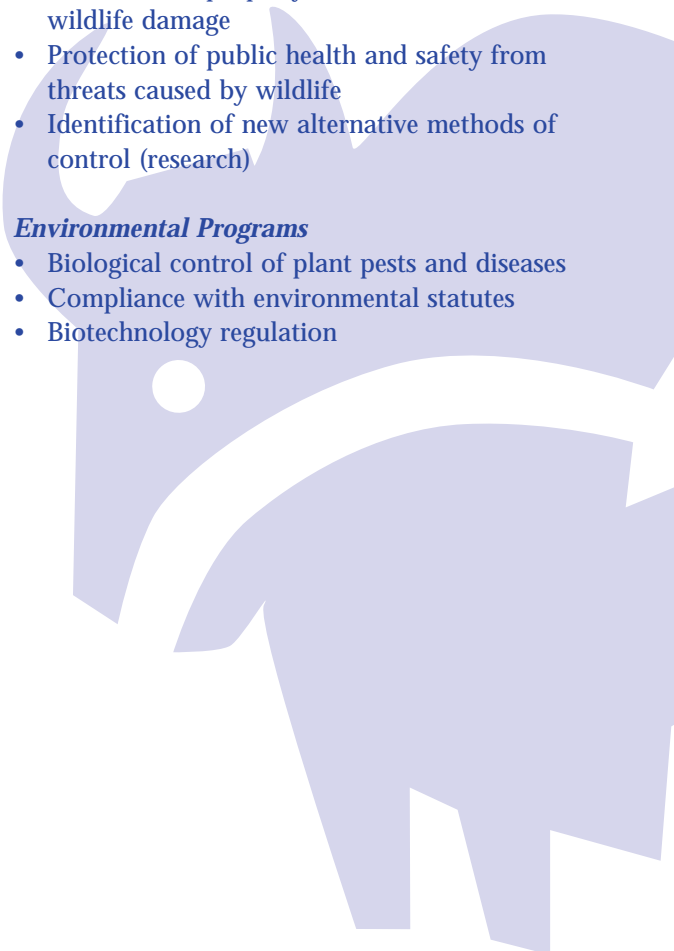
- Preclearance of foreign commodities
- U.S. agricultural exports
- International pest and disease surveillance and control

Wildlife Damage Programs

- Protection of agricultural resources, including livestock and aquaculture
- Protection of natural resources, including threatened and endangered wildlife species
- Protection of property and facilities from wildlife damage
- Protection of public health and safety from threats caused by wildlife
- Identification of new alternative methods of control (research)

Environmental Programs

- Biological control of plant pests and diseases
- Compliance with environmental statutes
- Biotechnology regulation



Getting in Touch With Us

This leaflet is part of an information package that explains how readers can contact the particular APHIS programs of interest for more specific information. To receive additional information, write to

Richard Wadleigh, Tribal Liaison
Office of the Administrator
USDA-APHIS
12345 W. Alameda Parkway, Suite 204
Lakewood, CO 80228

or contact your local APHIS office. And please visit the Native American Working Group's Website at www.aphis.usda.gov/anawg for more details.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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