

FEBRUARY 1997

PROTOCOL

BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON QUARANTINE AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR RATITES (OSTRICHES, EMUS, AND RHEAS) TO BE EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), can commence the quarantine and inspection procedure of ratites after receiving the import permit for importation of ratites issued by the Administration of Animal and Plant Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.

1.1 Each import health permit can only allow for the importation of one consignment of ratites.

1.2 The ratites to be exported to the People's Republic of China should comply with the requirements specified in the import health permit.

2. Each shipment of ratites must be accompanied with a USDA Health Certificate. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) shall be responsible for the quarantine and inspection of ratites in accordance with these requirements, and for issuing health certificate only for the ratites that meet the requirements.

2.1 The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) shall provide a sample of the blank health certificate to the Administration of Animal and Plant Quarantine of the People's Republic of China for approval before it becomes valid.

2.2 There will be one original and two copies of the certificate, with the relevant testing reports attached.

2.3 The health certificate shall be typed. Handwritten or altered versions are invalid.

2.4 The health certificate must be validated with the official stamp of The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the signature of an authorized veterinary officer.

2.5 The health certificate shall accompany the ratites being shipped to the People's Republic of China.

2.6 The health certificate shall have detailed information on the clinical diagnosis, health status, dates and results of the tests for each animal, the name, dosage and manufacturer of parasiticides and disinfectants and the date and place of application.

3. The Administration of Animal and Plant Quarantine of the People's Republic of China shall send veterinarian(s) to the U.S. farm(s) of export ratites, related isolation premises, testing laboratories and quarantine facilities to cooperate with USDA, APHIS veterinarians in making inspection and quarantine.

4. The United States of America officially confirms that it is free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Fowl Plague) and commercial poultry flocks are free of Velogenic Newcastle disease.

4.1 Whenever any outbreak in paragraph 4 occurs in the United States, APHIS will employ the following actions immediately:

4.1.1 Notify the CAPQ with the details of the outbreak within 24 hours, including the name of the disease, name and address of the farm in which the outbreak occurs, number and species of the animal(s) involved in the outbreak and the control measures that have been taken by APHIS; and

4.1.2 Refrain from exporting the ratites to China.

5. The farms of export ratites shall meet the following requirements:

5.1 An effective disease surveillance and control system is in place.

5.2 In the farm of origin and with a radius of 20 kms, there has been no clinical, serological or virological diagnostic reports of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in the last twelve (12) months.

5.3 There have been no occurrences of infectious laryngotracheitis, chlamydiosis (psittacosis-ornithosis), avian poxvirus infections, avian mycoplasmosis, avian papovavirus infections, avian encephalomyelitis, avian herpesvirus infections, salmonellosis, or equine viral encephalomyelitis for the past 12 months.

5.4 No ratites were introduced from other farms during the last six months prior to the testing specified in item 6, through the date of export of ratites.

5.5 During the 6 weeks immediately prior to starting the testing in item 6 and through the date of shipment, any ratite which died during this period are submitted to a USDA approved laboratory for examination. A copy of the results of the examinations shall be attached.

6. Prior to the ratites entering pre-export quarantine, the ratites to be exported shall be individually subjected to close clinical examinations and found healthy. The following tests shall be conducted with negative results:

6.1 Influenza virus: inoculation of chick embryo with cloacal swab for virus isolation.

6.2 Newcastle disease virus: inoculation of chick embryo with cloacal swab for virus isolation.

6.3 Avian paramyxovirus (type 1,2,3): inoculation of chick embryo with cloacal swab for virus isolation.

7. Prior to shipment, the ratites shall be quarantined in the premises approved by APHIS for at least 30 days. The premises must be located in a region that has been free from any disease mentioned in item 5 during the past 6 months. There must be no birds in the premises other than the ratites in this consignment. During the pre-export quarantine period, the ratites shall be subjected to close clinical examinations and be healthy. At least 14 days after the commencement of pre-export quarantine, each ratite shall be tested for freedom from the following diseases with negative results:

7.1 Avian Influenza: AGID test; and

7.2 Newcastle disease: HI test at the 1:8 dilution; and

7.3 Chlamydiosis (psittacosis-ornithosis): CF test at the 1:10 dilution; and

7.4 Salmonellosis: Tube agglutination or microagglutination test (final dilution of 1:20) for *S. pullorum* and *S. typhimurium*.

7.5 During the isolation period, the ratites shall be treated for internal and external parasites with a U.S. Government-approved product under supervision of a USDA accredited veterinarian.

8. Any positive findings in the testing conducted in items 6 and 7 shall disqualify the entire shipment.

9. Each ratite for export shall be examined by APHIS veterinarians within 24 hours prior to leaving the pre-export quarantine premises and found to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites, and found fit for travel.

10. The ratites shall be transported via the route approved by the Administration of Animal and Plant Quarantine of the People's Republic of China. During the pre-export quarantine period and during transport from the pre-export quarantine premises to the port of shipment and through the

Chinese port of entry, the animals shall not pass through serious epizootic disease- infected areas and shall not have contact with animals not of the same consignment.

11. Feeds and bedding to be used during the quarantine and the transportation shall not originate from epizootic disease-affected areas and shall meet applicable veterinary hygienic requirements.

12. All crates, vehicles, ships, or aircraft to be used for transportation of the animals to the People's Republic of China shall be cleaned, disinfected, and treated with an USDA approved disinfectant.