

Safeguarding U.S. Agriculture in the Global Environment





**United States
Department of
Agriculture**
Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Introduction

In the last two decades, nations have turned away from the protectionist practices of the past and embraced trade agreements that have changed how the world does business. Countries have widened the door to the prospects of new trade opportunities and expanded partnerships with other nations, particularly in the area of agriculture.

With this increased interest in agricultural trade comes a bigger, more visible role for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In the 21st century, APHIS must ensure the free flow of trade while safeguarding American agriculture against harmful foreign pests and diseases. In order to balance these risks with America's desire for a diverse array of agricultural products, APHIS must be extra vigilant in its efforts to identify potential pathways for pests and disease and base all trade decisions on sound principles of science.

APHIS' International Services, Plant Protection and Quarantine, and Veterinary Services programs are vital in protecting America's borders against agricultural threats and creating new trade opportunities for America's producers. The agency's efforts on the homefront and abroad to safeguard American agriculture ensure that U.S. consumers can continue to enjoy the tastes of America while still sampling the tastes of the world.

For more information on APHIS programs, visit the APHIS homepage at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

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