

Glossary



Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency that provides standardization, grading, and market news services for certain commodities, such as fruits, vegetables, livestock, poultry, and seed.

Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection

(AQI): An Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) safeguarding program designed to prevent the introduction of harmful plant and animal pests and diseases, such as noxious weeds, insects, fungi, and parasites, into the United States.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

(APHIS): The USDA agency that protects American agriculture by providing leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants.

Area freedom: An international trade policy that allows distinct areas within a country or region that are free of a specified plant pest or disease to export related commodities even if the rest of the country remains quarantined.

Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):

An international organization established in 1989 to promote open trade and economic cooperation in the Pacific Rim.

Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*):

A destructive insect pest that kills hardwood trees. The beetle bores into healthy hardwoods, feeds on living tree tissue during the fall and winter, and emerges through a hole about the size of a dime during the spring. The boring eventually kills the tree.

Biological control: Control methods that use predators, parasites, and pathogens—instead of chemicals or cultural practices—to combat plant pests.

Biotechnology: The application of biological science to manipulate deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) to improve old organisms or create new ones, such as plants with better disease resistance, crop yield, and nutrition.

Bioterrorism: The use of living agents, such as a manmade or natural disease pathogens, to attack people, animals, and plants.

Bluetongue: A serious viral disease in animals characterized by swelling and sloughing, especially about the mouth and tongue.

Boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*

Boheman): A serious insect pest that feeds on cotton. APHIS has been working to eradicate this pest from the United States since 1978.

Botany: The study of plants.

Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB): This APHIS Veterinary Services unit implements the provisions of the Virus–Serum–Toxin Act to assure that pure, safe, potent, and effective veterinary biologics are available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases. CVB is located in Ames, IA.

Citrus canker: A highly contagious disease of citrus caused by the bacterium *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pathovar *citri*. This bacterium causes dieback, defoliation, severely blemished fruit, reduced fruit quality, and premature fruit drop.

Classical swine fever (CSF): A highly contagious, deadly disease of swine, also known as hog cholera.

Closing the Los Angeles Area Marketplace

Pathway (CLAMP): A program created to reduce the amount of agricultural goods smuggled into major international ports located in California.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex):

A subsidiary of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization created to facilitate world food trade by establishing international standards based on accepted scientific knowledge.

Contagious equine metritis (CEM):

A transmissible, exotic, venereal disease of horses, commonly associated with infertility.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES):

A treaty that regulates the international commercial trade of endangered and threatened plants and animals, and products derived from them, and monitors trade involving species that may become extinct in the near future.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS):

A program through which the Federal Government works with States to conduct ongoing surveys for foreign plant pests and diseases. Information collected in the surveys is maintained in a nationwide database.

Ecology: The study of the relationships between organisms and their environments.

Emergency Management Operations Center (EMOC):

The APHIS facility used to manage pest and disease outbreaks from the Riverdale, MD, headquarters.

Emergency Programs (EP):

The APHIS Veterinary Services staff that manages foreign animal disease outbreaks.

Entomology: The study of insects.

Environmental assessment (EA): A concise public document that provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Environmental impact statement (EIS):

A detailed statement discussing the potential impact a proposed action may have on the environment. The EIS details any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented and any alternatives to the proposed action.

EXCERPT: A database maintained by APHIS and Purdue University that allows Plant Protection and Quarantine officers, State and county officials, and members of the agricultural industry to access export information.

Florida Interdiction and Smuggling Team (FIST):

A program created to reduce the amount of agricultural goods smuggled into major international ports in Florida.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

A subsidiary of the United Nations that works to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the conditions of rural populations. FAO achieves this through providing development assistance, information and support services, advice to governments, and a forum for international cooperation.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

A Department of Health and Human Services agency that sets Federal standards and regulations for the safety and effectiveness of foods, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and products (like microwaves) that emit radiation. FDA also regulates feed and drugs for pets and farm animals.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS):

The USDA agency that ensures commercially supplied meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): A highly contagious and economically devastating disease of cattle and swine characterized by fever and blisterlike lesions on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats, and in between the claws.

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS): USDA's lead agency for international activities, including trade negotiations, promotion of U.S. agricultural products abroad, and the collection of statistics and market information.

Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL): This Veterinary Services laboratory is used for the diagnosis and study of foreign animal diseases. FADDL is located on Plum Island, NY.

Free Trade Areas for the Americas (FTAA): An agreement signed by the United States and 33 leaders from Central and South America and the Caribbean that makes a joint declaration of their commitment to hemispheric economic and trade integration by 2005.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT): A multilateral agreement, established in the wake of World War II, that laid down rules for international trade.

Genetically modified organism (GMO): A living organism that has been altered by manipulating its deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) for the purpose of improving an old organism or creating a new one.

Gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*): A devastating insect pest that feeds on leaf foliage. There are two strains of this moth, the European and the Asian. Both are very destructive and can cause great damage to ecosystems within the United States by defoliating thousands of acres of forests.

Harmonization: Establishment, recognition, and application of phytosanitary measures by different countries based on common standards.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC): A subsidiary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization focused on preventing the spread of plant-borne diseases and pests and developing science-based plant quarantine requirements for international trade.

International Regulation Retrieval System (IRRS): A database maintained by Veterinary Services that lists the animal health requirements of foreign countries.

International Services (IS): The division of APHIS that works outside the United States to keep agricultural pests and diseases from entering the country, to facilitate agricultural exports, and to bring agricultural trade into harmony with agricultural health worldwide.

Invasive species: Animals, plants, and pathogens non-native to a country or region that threaten native forms of life in that region.

Karnal bunt: A disease of wheat caused by the fungus *Tilletia indica* Mitra, also known as *Neovossia indica*. The disease reduces crop yield and reduces the marketability of the grain.

Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) (*Ceratitis capitata*): A destructive insect pest that feeds on many fruits, including citrus. The female Medfly attacks ripening fruit, piercing the soft skin and laying eggs in the puncture. The eggs hatch into larvae, which feed inside the fruit pulp.

Moscamed: Cooperative program between the governments of the United States, Mexico, and Guatemala. The program works to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly from Mexico and to maintain a barrier in Guatemala to halt the pest's northern spread.

Multilateral: Trade discussion involving multiple countries that provides a forum to discuss ongoing negotiations, trade disputes, phytosanitary standards, and other issues related to trade.

National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS): A database that holds survey information collected in the CAPS program. Information in this database can be accessed from anywhere in the country by authorized users.

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS): A Veterinary Services program started in 1983 to gather information on the state of animal health in the United States.

National Center for Import and Export (NCIE): A Veterinary Services staff that develops zoosanitary protocols that allow the safe import of animals and animal products. This staff also negotiates protocols that will allow the entry of U.S. agricultural products into foreign countries.

National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL): The only Federal facility in the United States engaged in the diagnosis of animal diseases, both domestic and foreign. NVSL also provide consultation, reagents, and training for foreign governments. NVSL's facilities are located in Ames, IA, and Plum Island, NY.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): A multilateral trade pact between the United States, Canada, and Mexico that went into effect in January 1994.

North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO): A regional plant-health organization created in 1976 to share information and cooperate in advancing common regional goals.

Noxious weed: A nonindigenous weed species that can upset the balance among native plant species within natural and agricultural ecosystems.

Office International des Epizooties (OIE): The world's oldest international veterinary organization, formed in 1924 to develop and maintain a worldwide animal disease reporting network and to facilitate world trade by minimizing the risk of spreading livestock diseases.

PANAFTOSA: An organization of South American countries created to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease from the continent.

Pest risk analysis (PRA): The process of evaluating biological and other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it.

Phytosanitary: Pertaining to plant health.

Phytosanitary certificate: A document required to accompany certain agricultural exports that is issued by Federal, State, or county officials and verifies the shipment is free from quarantined plant pests and pathogens.

Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM) Team: An APHIS team that has the primary responsibility for planning, coordinating, and helping to resolve phytosanitary and biological issues that impede trade.

Phytosanitary measure: Any legislation, regulation, or official procedure intended to prevent the introduction and/or spread of plant pests.

Pink hibiscus mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus* Green): A serious agricultural pest that attacks more than 200 varieties of plants. The pest sucks the juice from the host plants while injecting toxic saliva. This action can lead to the death of a plant.

Plant pathology: The study of plant diseases.

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ): The division of APHIS charged with protecting the Nation's agricultural resources from the spread of plant pests and diseases.

Preclearance: The inspection and treatment of foreign agricultural commodities prior to their export to the United States to prevent harmful exotic pests and diseases from being transported here.

Quarantine pest: A pest of potential economic importance to an area but not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization (READEO): A task force consisting of Veterinary Services employees, State veterinarians, military support personnel, industry liaisons, and representatives from other units within USDA. This task force is specially trained to handle outbreaks of foreign animal diseases.

Regionalization: An international trade policy that allows distinct areas within a country or region that are free of a specified animal disease to export related commodities even if the rest of the country remains quarantined.

Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC): A program created by APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine in response to the growing volume of smuggled agricultural products. Operating at a number of national ports, the program ensures compliance with U.S. agricultural import laws.

Trade Support Team (TST): A unit of APHIS' International Services that provides analytic and strategic guidance to help establish new markets for U.S. exports while protecting the United States' agricultural resources.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): The Department of the Interior agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

U.S. Trade Representative (USTR): The official who leads U.S. delegations in negotiating trade agreements and resolving trade disputes.

Veterinary biologics: Vaccines, bacterins, diagnostics, etc., used to prevent, treat, or diagnose animal diseases. These products generally work through an immunological method or process.

Veterinary Services (VS): The division of APHIS whose mission is to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation's animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics.

World Trade Organization (WTO): An entity created to establish and arbitrate the rules of trade between nations. It acts as an impartial body for settling disputes. It was formed in 1995 as a successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Zoology: The study of animals.

Zoosanitary: Pertaining to animal health.

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

Miscellaneous
Publication No. 1580
Issued September 2001